

WHAT'S ON

Photography Exhibition
Title: Death Trap
Photographer: Abrar Abdullah
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi
Date: April 10-24

Art Exhibition
Artist: Ifrat Ara Dewan
Venue: Bengal Lounge, Gulshan
Date: April 13-27
Time: 12pm-8pm

Grand Group Exhibition
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, DCC Market Gulshan
Date: April 19-May 18
Time: 10am-8pm

Group Exhibition
Title: 1134 – lives not numbers
Organiser: Pathshala
Venue: Pathshala, 16
Date: April 22-26
Time: 3pm-8pm

Art Exhibition
Title: Serenading Suchitra
Venue: Shilpakala Gallery, H-7, R-13 (New), Dhanmondi
Date: April 6-25
Time: 12pm-8pm

NEWS bytes

Joss Whedon releases new film on demand



Avengers director Joss Whedon has surprised fans by releasing his latest film online at the same time as it premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival.

Whedon, whose “Avengers” film made \$1.5bn at the box office, made “In Your Eyes” available to rent for \$5. It is the second release from his ‘micro studio’ Bellwether Pictures, after 2013’s “Much Ado About Nothing”.

“In Your Eyes” is a supernatural love story, starring Zoe Kazan and Michael Stahl-David as strangers who believe they share a telepathic connection.

Whedon is a cult figure in the sci-fi community, having created TV shows including “Buffy The Vampire Slayer”, “Dollhouse” and ‘space western’ “Firefly”.

“I like the surprise element,” he added of the film’s stealth release. “It’s a non-traditional way, for sure, but hey, it works for Beyonce.”

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!



Celebrated Bollywood actress Zeenat Aman got the role of Janice in Dev Anand’s “Hare Rama Hare Krishna” (1972) after Zaheeda, Dev Anand’s first choice, opted out because she thought the role was not significant. Aman went on to win the Filmfare award for Best Supporting Actress, while her performance in the song “Dum Maro Dum” turned her into one of the most desired women in India.

2nd Int'l Animation Cartoon fest ends today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the theme “Shishura Sajabe Notun Prithibi,” a three day (April 20-30), 2nd International Animation Cartoon Festival 2014 ends today at Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium of Central Public Library, Shahbagh. Children Communication Bangladesh (CCB) has organised the festival in association with Ifad Multi Food Products Limited, which is open for the children.

Noted cartoonist Shishir Bhattacharya inaugurated the festival on April 20 while writer Ali Imam; director general of Primary Education Department, Shyamal Kanti Ghosh and managing director of Ifad Multi Food Products Limited, Tanvir Ahmed were present at the event.

The three day festival has been featuring screening of animation cartoon logo films and showcasing of interesting anima-



tion cartoons of various countries, seminars and open discussion by the media personalities of cartoon.

A total of 75 animation cartoons made by 18 countries including Bangladesh have been screening in the Dhaka divisional venue (Public Library). The festival will set off in other divisional venues -- Muslim Institute Auditorium, Chittagong (May29); Sylhet Auditorium,

Sylhet (July 24); Barisal Auditorium, Barisal (September 25); Shishu Academy Auditorium, Khulna (October 23), Rajshahi Academy Auditorium, Rajshahi (November 28) and Shishu Academy Auditorium, Rangpur (December 25) this year.

Around 45 primary schools, 35 secondary schools, 20 NGO schools, 12 children organisations and 80 children representa-

tive from different schools have been invited at the 2nd International Animation Cartoon Festival.

Cultural affairs minister Asaduzzaman Noor, MP will grace the concluding day's ceremony today as chief guest. He will hand over crests, certificates and awards to the cartoonists. Cartoonist Ahsan Habib, Professor Fahima Khatun, Director General, Secondary and Higher Education Department, Unicef representative Meera Mitra and adviser to the CCB Sayeed Milky are also expected to attend the festival.

The festival brings a great opportunity for the children to have fun with interesting things such as colourful posters, stickers, festoon, t-shirt and caps. An animation cartoon logo film has already been made marking the festival.

Rabiul Islam Rony has directed the entire festival.

“I aspired to become a pilot” ... Swagata

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Swagata is a household name on the small screen, besides being a model, anchor, actress and singer. In a recent conversation, the multi-faceted Swagata talked about her busy professional life:

Which was your first TV play?

Swagata: It was “Icche Purno”, directed by Yusuf Hasan Ark.

Tell us about your new serial “Elebele” on Banglavisión?

Swagata: I appear as a village girl in the play scripted and directed by Badrul Anam Soud. I had to learn the local dialect of Mymensingh to enact the role. The director and the entire team were very helpful in this regard. The drama, featuring a number of prominent artistes, was shot in Rajendrapur.

What about your other play “Dhanni Meye”, being telecast on Channel 9?

Swagata: Here, I play a courageous character named Monisha who is a physician by profession. I thoroughly enjoyed acting in the critically acclaimed play.

Any other plays being aired currently?

Swagata: There is “Swapan Korechhi Bapon”, directed by Syed Awlad. I have taken a fresh approach to this role. **You are now working on a new TV episode “Aporba”?**

Swagata: Directed by Goutom Koiri, it is a story based on the life of four women corporates. I play one of them. In the project, the audience will see me in a new avatar.

What's in the pipeline on the small screen?

Swagata: In the next few days, I will be very busy shooting for several new serials. I am now working on “Annandamahar”, a story, based on the struggle of a 35-year-old woman who falls on hard days after her daughter's demise. I came face to face with hard reality when I was doing this role.

What about anchoring?

Swagata: I am emceeing a programme “Positive View” on ntv. It is targeting at those involved in underworld music. It will be telecast four times a month. As the audience love my anchoring, I want to emcee a few other select programmes. Overall, I prefer to emcee such music related programmes.

You are also seen singing. Tell us

more...

Swagata: I am totally into music.

What was your last movie?

Swagata: “Firey Esho Behula” I appeared in the film as a guest artiste.

How do you start your morning?

Swagata: It starts with a cup of tea that I enjoy with my father. When I return home late at night, I often find him sleeping in the drawing room, awaiting my arrival.

Do you have any cherished memories about your dad?

Swagata: My father sometimes surprises me with a visit when I am near Dhaka on a shooting location for two or three days. A few days ago as I prepared for a shot, my father was at the location digging into a watermelon.

What was your ambition in your younger days?

Swagata: As a school girl, I aspired to be a pilot. Later, I thought of becoming a singer.

How much did you make for your first appearance on screen?

Swagata: I got Taka 300 after an appearance as a child artiste in a BTV programme.



Highlighting diverse styles and themes

Khalid Mahmood's solo exhibition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A solo exhibition titled “Deconstructing” by artist Khalid Mahmood Mithu is on at the Athena Gallery of Fine Arts in the city. This is his 11th solo exhibition consisting of 101 paintings. The paintings offer a wide range of subjects. The solo exhibition was inaugurated recently. Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali was present as chief guest at the inauguration. Abul Khair, chairman of Bengal Foundation was present as guest of honour while Dan W. Mozena, US ambassador to Bangladesh was present as special guest. Veteran painters Syed Jahangir and Monirul Islam were also present at the event.

As a pure abstract painter, Mithu's works feature pure forms and compositions. His colours are both vibrant and subdued and the forms are not well defined. Mithu has made a great attempt to produce some alien features through his paintings. At



the exhibition, his paintings look more rigid on account of the use of sparse space and varied amorphous forms. Blue, red, yellow, emerald and yellowish brown are noticeable colours.

Mithu has done a number of series where his personal observation, social, cultural and political aspects have been in focus. Several objects like wrecked chair, cup of tea, form of fish, horse in different sizes, rickshaw, and an empty bench appear in his paintings. He allows his paintings to emerge naturally by building up many layers.

The artist, however, often seems to experiment in unnecessary ornamentation where space is very limited. His paintings need more flexibility. The painter's mode of expression is not certainly single. His works are regarded as pure abstract, occasionally semi-realistic. His lines are often curved and fleshy. Fragmented shapes and scattered forms are noticeable too.

The exhibition will continue till May 15.

TV WATCH



Today's edition of “Music Club”, Banglavisión's regular musical programme, will be telecast at 11.25 pm. The programme, directed by Nahid Ahmed Biplob, will feature renowned folk singers Kiron Chandra Roy and Chandana Majumder.

As a bonus, viewers can phone in and request for their favourite songs.



International Dance Day Colourful programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

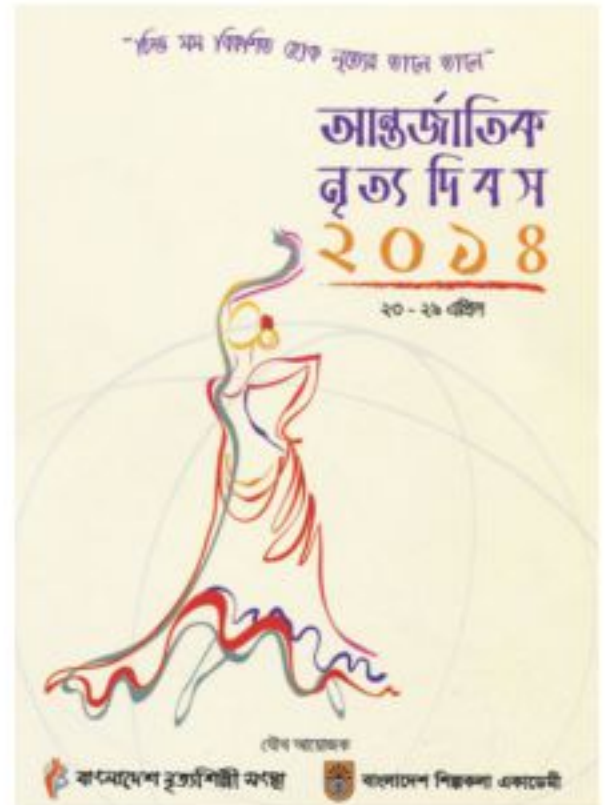
With the theme “Chitto Momo Bikoshito Houk Nrityer Taal-e Taal-e”, a weeklong (April 23-29) programme marking International Dance Day (April 29) sets off today. Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) Liaquat Ali Lucky will inaugurate the event at 5pm at the Music and Dance Centre premises of BSA.

Bangladesh Nritya Shilpi Sangstha (BNSS) and BSA have jointly organised the festival. DG of BSA will inaugurate Nrityagurumata Rahiza Khanam Jhunu Mela (fair) at the National Art Gallery Plaza on the opening day. The organisers will also felicitate Dr. Enamul Haque at the event where child artistes will perform.

The fair will start at 3pm everyday from April 24 to April 28 while divisional and district artistes of BNSS will perform dances at the venue from 6pm to 9pm.

The programmes to mark International Dance Day (April 29) will start at 9am at Central Shaheed Minar premises. A colourful rally will parade several streets of the capital and end at BSA. A seminar titled “Nritye Tomar Muktir Roop” will be held at the Music and Dance Centre auditorium of BSA at 11am on the day.

A grand celebration programme will take place at National Theatre Hall of BSA at 6:30pm the same day. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, MP will be present as chief guest.



In remembrance of poet Fazal Shahabuddin



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A commemorative programme on the recently deceased poet Fazal Shahabuddin was held on April 19 at the Chayannaut auditorium in Dhanmondi. The programme featured a discussion, poetry recitation and musical soiree.

Professor Harun ur Rashid, former director general of Bangla Academy; Saleh Uddin Ahmed, former governor of Bangladesh Bank; poet- writer Mahboob Talukdar, poets Mohammad Nurul Huda, Habibullah Sherajee, journalist Mohammad Jahangir, Habibul Alam Bir Pratik and Ajmiree Shahabuddin (wife of the poet) spoke at the programme.

The discussants briefly focused on the poet's life and contributions. His poems highlight romanticism, nature, urban life, patriotism, varied aspects of the country's social, political and cultural milieu. The poet raised his voice against communalism and anti-Liberation War forces.

Singers Rokeya Siddiqua, Atanu Barua performed songs “Chena Chena Lagey”, and “Ami Je Adharer Bandini” (lyrics by Fazal Shahabuddin). A number of elocutionists gave recitations at the event, where the book launch of the poet's last literary work “Ekjon Kobi Ekaki” was also held. Renowned actor Afzal Hossain emceed the programme. Poet Aminur Rahman and Shajal Arefin arranged the event.

Rani Mukherji and Aditya Chopra marital bliss



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Ending years of speculation, Bollywood actress Rani Mukherji and leading film producer Aditya Chopra, the head of Yash Raj Films, got married in Italy on Monday night, the production company announced today.

“We are happy to announce that Mr. Aditya Chopra and Ms. Rani Mukherji got married last night on 21st April in Italy. The wedding was a very small intimate affair with very close family and friends,” said a press release from Yash Raj Films.

Rumours about Rani, star of films like “Black”, “Kuch Kuch Hota Hai” and “No One Killed Jessica”, and Aditya Chopra, 42, had started swirling way back in 2008. And the two tying the knot came as a surprise to many in Bollywood. Chopra is divorced.

Chopra has directed Bollywood blockbusters like “Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge”, “Mohabbatein” and “Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi”.

Bollywood trade analysts Taran Adarsh tweeted Rani Mukherji's statement: “I would like to share the happiest day of my life with all my fans all over the world whose love and blessings have been part of my journey all these years. I know that all my well-wishers who have waited for this day will be really happy for me. It was a beautiful wedding in the Italian countryside with just a few of our close family and friends with us”.