

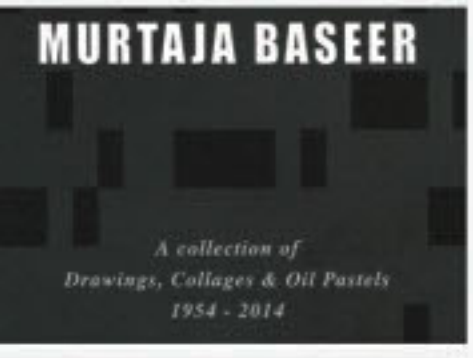
**Solo Dance Show**  
Production: DESH by Akram Khan Company  
Organisers: British Council & Bengal Foundation  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy




**Group Exhibition**  
Only Connect: Edition One  
Venue: Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct  
Date: Sep 14-23  
Time: 12-8pm



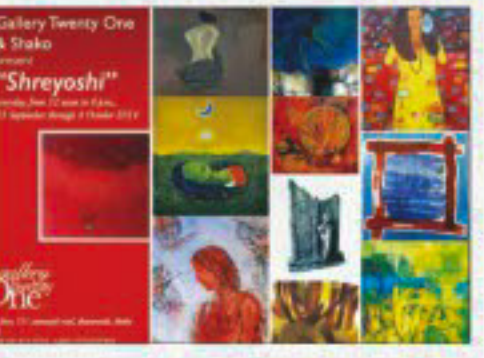
**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Murtaja Baseer  
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara  
Date: Sep 13-25  
Time: 11am-8pm



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Montage  
Artist: Samarjit Roy Chowdhury  
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi  
Date: Sep 6-22  
Time: 12-8pm



**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Shreyoshi by 11 women artists  
Venue: Gallery Twenty One, 11th Floor, 751 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi  
Date: Sep 12-Oct 4  
Time: 12-8pm



NEWS bytes

CLOONEY to appear in Downton sketch



George Clooney is to appear in Downton Abbey in a specially filmed sketch for the ITV charity show Text Santa. ITV are not revealing any more details about the sketch, which will air at Christmas. Hugh Bonneville, who plays the Earl of Grantham, became friends with Clooney when he appeared in his film The "Monuments Men". Clooney and co-star Matt Damon admitted they were fans of "Downton Abbey" at the UK premiere in February. But Clooney said he didn't think he would be right to appear in the show, telling The Sun "I am too lowly for a part, I don't think they want me."

Series five of popular TV series "Downton Abbey" starts on ITV on September 21.

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!



After having obtained a black belt in Taekwondo while in India, one Rajiv Hari Om Bhatia learned the martial art form Muay Thai in Bangkok, Thailand, and worked as a chef and waiter. He then came back to Mumbai, where he started teaching martial arts. He got his modelling assignment via a student, where he got paid 5,000 Rupees, compared to his previous monthly salary of 4,000 Rupees. In the years to come, he would become one of the most successful Bollywood actors of his time, and be known by the name of Akshay Kumar.

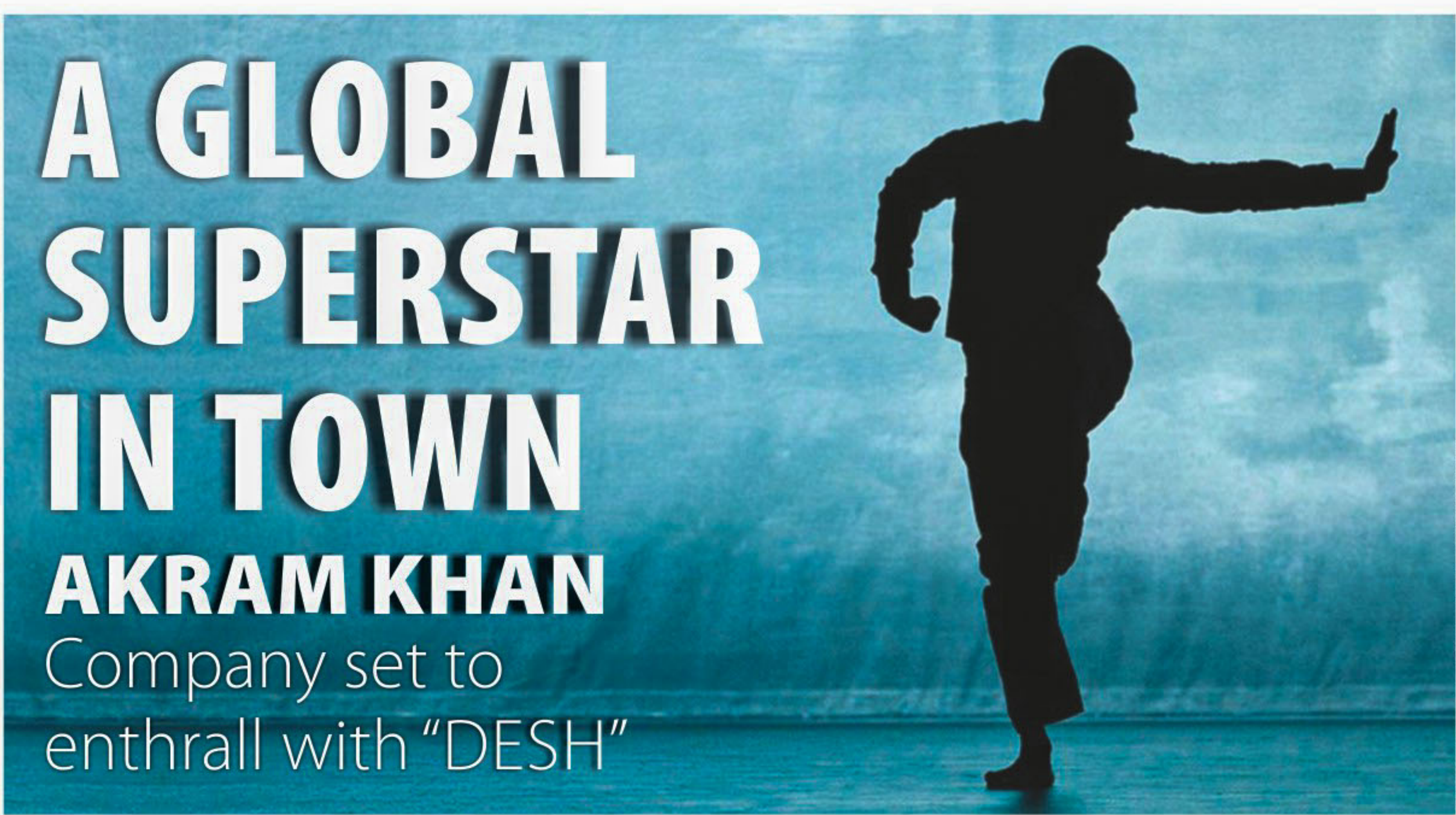


PHOTO COURTESY: AKRAMKHANCOMPANY.NET

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the most celebrated dance troupes in the world, the Akram Khan Company, is currently in Dhaka, news that will excite connoisseurs of performing arts greatly. The British Council, with help of the Bengal Foundation, is facilitating the 'homecoming' of world-renowned dancer-choreographer Akram Khan -- whose roots lie in Bangladesh.

Akram will be performing his award-winning production "DESH" -- an 80-minute solo -- on September 18 and 19 at the Shilpakala Academy's National Theatre Hall, and his troupe is taking part in a

host of other activities. The first of which, a workshop on the 'Back Stage', was conducted at the Shilpakala Academy yesterday, conducted by Sander Loonen, the technical director for "DESH". A Dance Master Class-- with selective participants -- will be conducted on September 16 at the same venue by Jose Agudo -- rehearsal director for "DESH". A panel discussion will be held on the same day at the British Council with participation of Akram himself; Stephan Roman, Regional Director, South Asia, British Council; Luva Nahid Chowdhury, DG, Bengal Foundation and Asaduzzaman Noor, Cultural Affairs Minister. A roundtable on Creative Economy

will be held at The Daily Star Centre on September 17.

Of the performances, the first day will be an invite-only show with dignitaries and British Council's contest winners, while the second day's show will be broadcast on the Art Gallery Plaza of the Shilpakala Academy, as well as TSC of Dhaka University.

"DESH", a contemporary solo is termed the most personal work to date from Akram Khan. It draws multiple tales of land, nation, resistance and convergence into the body and voice of one man, trying to find his balance in an unstable world. Moving between Britain and Bangladesh, Akram weaves threads

of memory, experience and myth into a surreal world of surprising connection. Intimate and epic at the same time, "DESH" explores fragility in the face of natural forces, and celebrates the resilience of the human spirit in the rhythms of labour, in dream and story, and in transformation and survival. He has teamed up with Oscar-winning visual artist Tim Yip (Production Designer for "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"), lighting designer Michael Hulls, writer and poet Karthika Nair and Olivier award-winning composer Jocelyn Pook.

The Daily Star, The Daily Prothom Alo and Channel i are media partners of the event.

Art in Nature  
Shafiqur Rahman's exhibition "The Dying Grounds"

FAYZA HAQ

At Dhaka Art Centre from September 5-11, viewers got to see mind-boggling photographs by Shafiqur Rahman. The photojournalist has found sculpture in rejected automobile parts and rickshaws, and has shown them as rusty, broken bits, being carried away by scavengers. This aspect of seeing beauty in rejects of machines, medical utility parts used by CRP was seen decades back in an exhibition at the Bengal Gallery, by Arhamul Huq Chowdhury. The photographs taken by Shafiqur Rahman portray remnants of four-wheel drives, reject private cars, and rickshaws with the beauty of rickshaw painters' arts of actors decorating its' backs -- rusted with time, they can now be seen as sculpture pieces.

The first work is on Fujicolor Crystal archiving paper. There are cars camouflaged all over, covered by leaves and creepers growing all over. There are small bushes on the six cars, growing in Nature's harmony. There are beautiful trees growing all around. The blue and red cars are covered by trailing



branches.

Another picture also shows harmony and beauty of camouflage. There are three cars at the sides, while behind are new cars -- which belong to visitors at the park. Dry banana leaves, branches of leaves, trailers make for a peaceful setting.

"Discarded" is done on crystal archive paper. Between banana trees and creepers is a part of a red car. "Spent life" is seen a part of a yel-

low truck which is covered with trailers. Behind through the m  le of the green overgrowth is a man, maybe working at something. "Shattered" is an image of cars that are broken and rejected. The handles, tyres, and body are all that are left. The wall against which the cars are seen is also covered with rust. There is an iron rod in the fore ground. Everything in view is eaten up by iron-oxide.

Cultural programme by differently-abled children

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Chunarughat, (Habiganj)

Marking the inauguration programme of Prattay Project for education of children with disabilities, a cultural programme was held recently at the Chunarughat Upazila hall room of the Chunarughat Upazila in the Habiganj district. Prattay Project, a project of Caritas Sylhet Region organised the programme.

Performances of songs, dances and plays by over 125 differently-abled children were lauded by the distinguished guests and audiences.

The programme also included a discussion, and a meeting to chalk out strategies for the implementation of the project..

Francis Atul Sarkar, Assistant Executive Director (programme) of Caritas Bangladesh, chaired the discussion. Abu Taher, Chunarughat Upazila Chairman attended the discussion as chief guest and special guest Chunarughat Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md. Mashudul Kabir. Jhon Montu Palma, Regional Director of Caritas Sylhet Region delivered the welcome speech. The keynote paper was presented by Pius Nanuar, Regional Manager, Aloghar project of Caritas Sylhet Region and contacted by Prahlad Ray, technical officer of Prattay Project.

The speakers noted that the disabled individuals are often wrongly perceived as a burden. If provided with opportunities and proper education/training, they too can contribute to the society and live dignified lives. They need empathy, added the speakers.

Musical evening to usher in autumn



Artistes perform at the event.

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

Hundreds of music lovers congregated at a programme featuring septuagenarian popular singer Nurul Alam Lal and his son Tanvir Alam Shawjeeb. The programme was held at TMSS Mohila Market Auditorium in Bogra town on Friday evening to celebrate the advent of autumn.

The noted vocalist performed four songs. His son Tanvir Alam Shawjeeb sang a Nazrul sangeet. He recalled the legendary singer of Nazrul songs, recently departed Feroza Begum by singing "Sure O Banir Mala". The song clearly moved the audience.

Later the father-son performed Nazrul songs, songs of yesteryears and ghazals.

The programme was conducted by noted cultural personality of the district Shyamol Biswas.

Banglalink Rangpur Divisional Bhawaiya Festival held



MEHEDY HASAN, Rangpur

The three-day 'Banglalink Rangpur Divisional Bhawaiya Utsab'-- 2014 was held at Rangpur Public Library ground in the city on Thursday evening. Sound Touch-- a reputed cultural organisation of Rangpur organised the event, sponsored by Banglalink.

One of the most significant cultural festivals of the northern region, the event is complete with Bhawaiya competitions, discussions, and presen-

tation of Bhawaiya songs by veteran artists of eight districts under Rangpur division.

Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhantu, Mayor of Rangpur City Corporation inaugurated the festival as chief guest.

Majedur Rahman, President of Sound Touch presided over the inaugural ceremony.

Earlier, a huge colourful rally, led by noted Bhawaiya artist and researcher Mohammad Siraj Uddin and joined by hundreds of Bhawaiya artists and cultural personalities

from all over Rangpur division, was brought out.

Around 500 Bhawaiya artists of different age groups from all eight districts in Rangpur division are participating in the festival.

Among others, Professor Dr Zakir Hossain, principal of Rangpur Medical College; Abdul Haque, Rangpur regional director of Bangladesh Betar; Shakhawat Ranga, president of district unit of Sammilita Sanskritik Jote; Mazbub Alam, Bogra regional sales manager of Banglalink and Rezaul Islam Milan, secretary general of Rangpur City Shop Owners' Association were present as special guests.

The Mayor said, "We have enough talent but in absence of patronage they drop out as petals fall from a flower before it blooms." He said Banglalink is deserving of praise as it extends patronage to cultural organisations that scout for talent in the cultural field. The speakers emphasised the need to preserve and nurture Bhawaiya.



Artistes pose with their MTV Chart Attack awards, handed to them at a Press Conference yesterday at The Daily Star Centre by Creinse Limited -- the official programme syndication partner in Bangladesh for Viacom Media Network, for MTV. Waqee Ahad won the Platinum Disc award for holding top position in the programme 12 times in six months with his song "Amrito Megher Bari". Shunno, Aushruto and Miftah Zaman won Silver Disc Awards, while Mala, Neel Kontho and Ghuddy won the Number One song position for a week each.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HUQ