

WHAT'S ON

9th Annual Theatre Fest
Organiser: Dept of Theatre and Performance Studies, DU
Venue: TSC
Date: Dec 1-12
Time: 6:30pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Proshanta Karmakar
Venue: Café Mango Gallery, H-2/A, Rd 72, Gulshan
Date: Nov 14-Jan 14
Time: 10am-10pm

Friday Open Mic
Organiser: Jatra Bhoiti
Venue: Jatra Banani Outlet, Kemal Ataurak Ave.
Date: Dec 12
Time: 6pm-10pm

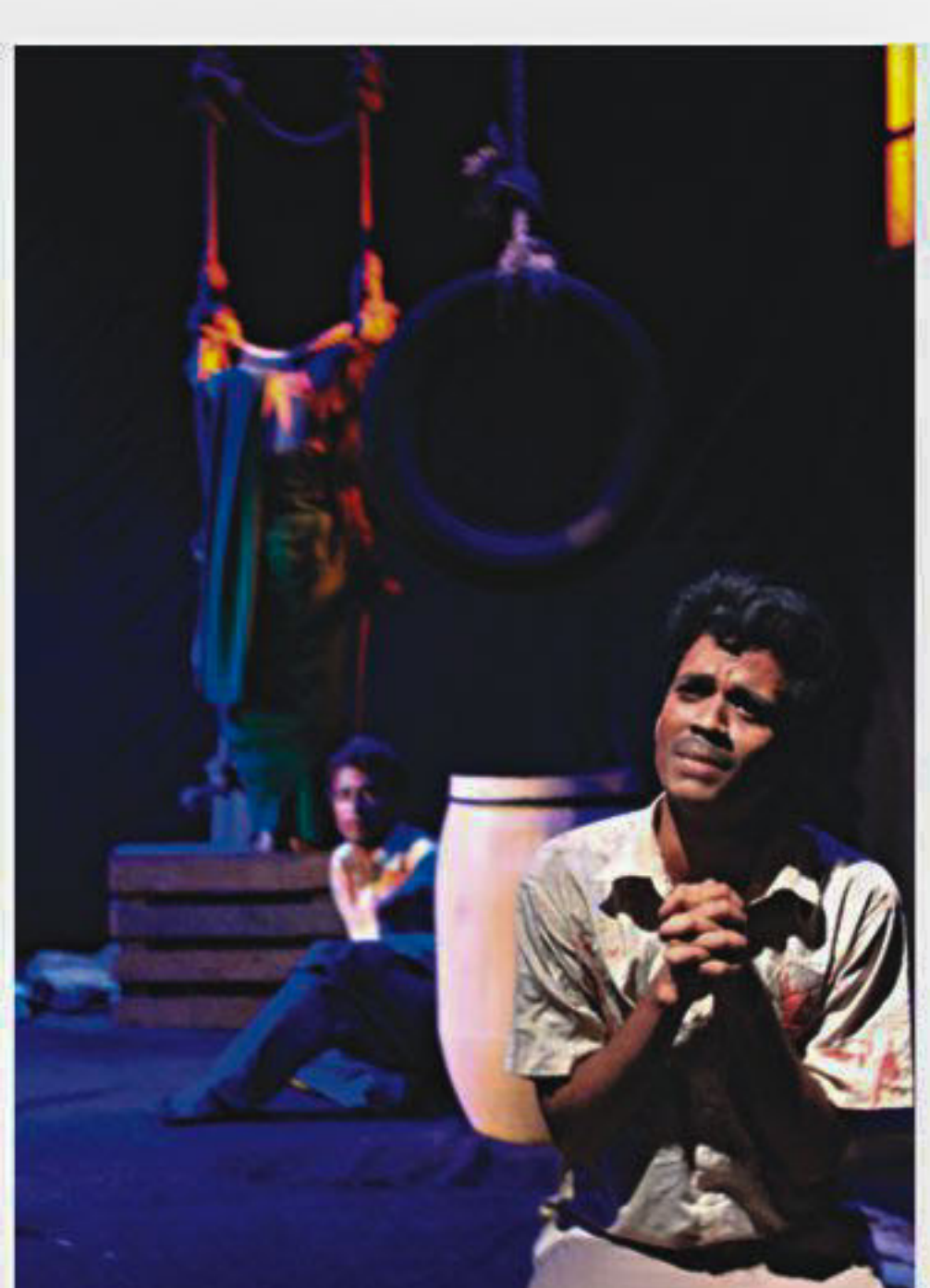
16th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: December 1-31
Time: 11am to 5pm except Fridays (9-5pm)

Film Release
Film: Meghmalar
Producer: Bengal Entertainment
Halls: Star Complex, Blockbuster, Balika-2, Shyamoli Digital

Painting Exhibition
Title: Monochrome
Organiser: Bengal Foundation
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Date: Dec 3-Dec 14
Time: 12pm-5pm

Qayyum Chowdhury Memorial Programme
Organiser: Bengal Foundation
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, Dharmapal
Date: December 12
Time: 4pm

Solo Painting and Drawing Exhibition
Title: Shifting Sands
Artist: Nasima Khan
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge
Date: Dec 12-27
Time: 12pm-5pm



Padatik to premiere PORAMATI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Padatik Natya Sangsad Bangladesh is set to premiere their latest production, a piece on the Liberation War, on Martyred Intellectuals' Day (December 14) at 6pm at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. 'Poramati', a play scripted by Debut Biswas and directed by Dr. Irin Parvin Lopa, depicts the torture and genocide that was inflicted on the intellectuals of the country just two days prior to the independence of Bangladesh.

Four members of Martyred Intellectuals families, Ferdousi Majumdar, Panna Kaiser, Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury and Zahid Reza Noor will be present at the premiere of the play. Deputy High Commissioner of Indian Embassy, Dhaka, Sandip Chakraborty will attend the show as special guest. About the play, Selim SH Chowdhury, team leader of Padatik Natya Sangsad Bangladesh said, "The play brings forth the spirit of Liberation War. In this age we have come far away from the spirit of '71 and many are trying to gain personal interests instead of working for the welfare of society. This play upholds the sacrifice of our Martyred Intellectuals who laid their lives for the country."

Advertisement for Tareque Masud Festival 2014, featuring posters and text about the event.

Tareque Masud Festival opens today
A means to inspire and motivate young people

SAURAV DEY
The second edition of the two-day Tareque Masud Festival begins at 3pm today at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) in the capital. The Tareque Masud Memorial Trust will organise the festival to commemorate the birthday of the late filmmaker. A series of special events that share a common connection to the works and dreams of Tareque, will be held as part of the programme. About this year's festival, his wife filmmaker Catherine Masud said, "We are bringing in musical performances this year. The festival will open with a performance by the band Bangla. The group has come together for this performance. And they will be singing several Tareque songs along with Lalon numbers, Rabindranath's songs and one Nazrul Sangeet. It will be very exciting to have them performing on stage together. We will be closing that part with a screening of a music video of Bangla singing Lalon's 'Kanaar Haat Bazaar'. We have just finished the music video which was shot many years ago. Also joining them on stage will be Tanveer Alam Swajeb and

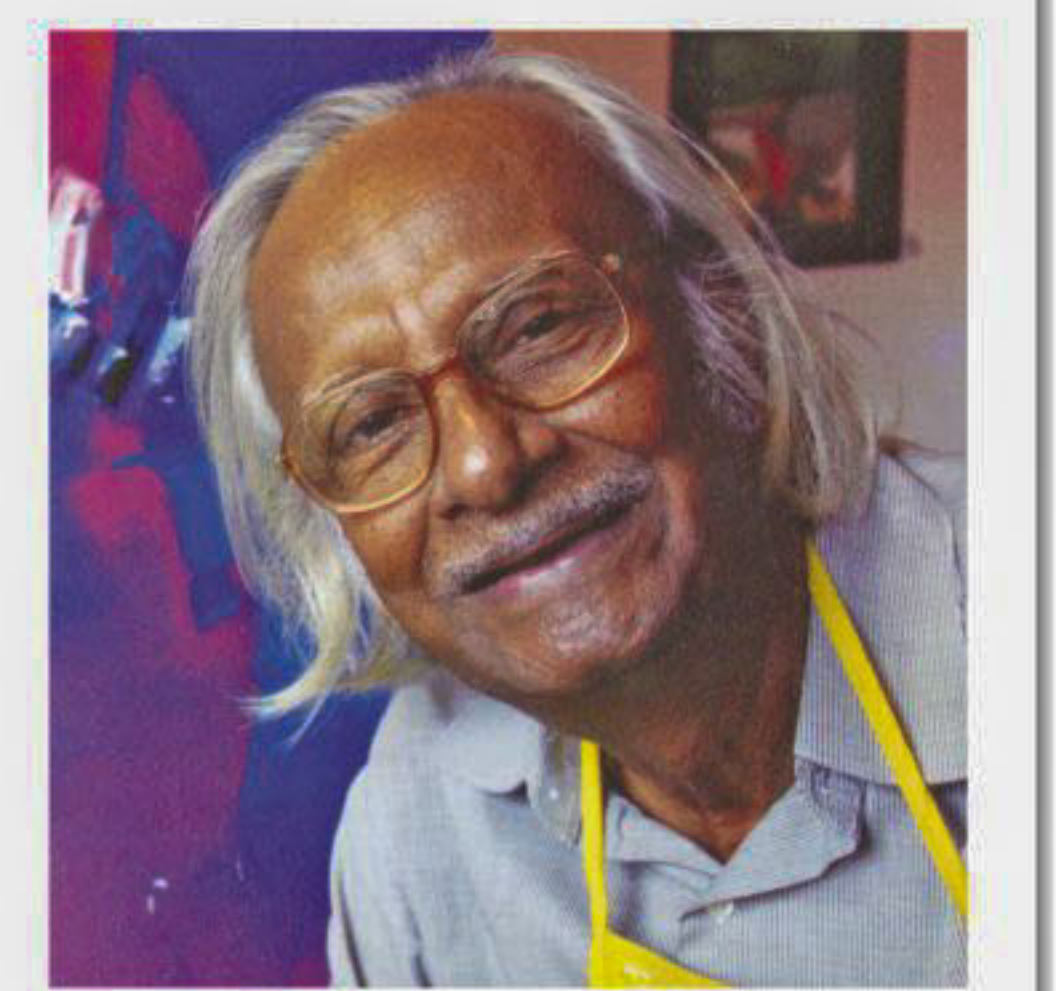
Seth Pandu Blumberg. The second day will have a Boyati performance and one by Tanveer Alam Swajeb. The musical performances will add a different dimension of Tareque's works; he was an excellent songwriter, and most of the songs in our films were written by him. "Another event will be the second edition of Tareque Masud Young Filmmakers' Award. Filmmakers between the ages of 16 to 25 have participated in the programme and the award will be given to three films. This year's theme was 'Amar Mukti, Amar Juddho', she added. Catherine went on to add, "We are also launching the DVD of 'Adam Surat', which is the first film of Tareque and was shot 25 years ago. It took a long time to re-master the film digitally. It also packs all of the other extras including Tareque's own interview about his journey with SM Sultan. We are calling this package an archive because it has lot of materials which we have collected over the years. A lot of writings by Tareque on SM Sultan and by other famous personalities like Professor Razzaque, Shawkat Osman, Ahmed Sofa and Shamsur Rahman are in the DVD. It comes with a 150-page booklet that con-

tains all the writings and information about. There are two DVDs: one DVD contains the film and the other DVD packs extra materials." Catherine explained the objective of the festival: "We are holding this festival as a means to inspire and motivate young people as filmmakers and as critics of their own society. The objective of the trust is to inspire the young people through the teachings of Tareque Masud." The festival will also see the premiere of Tareque's documentary "Remembering Runway". The 40-minute film, directed by Catherine Masud and Dina Hossain, is a behind-the-scenes account of the making of film "Runway" and is a tribute to the filmmaking partnership of Tareque Masud and Mishuk Munier. Poet and writer Sajjad Sharif will present the Tareque Masud memorial lecture, "Cinema of Tareque Masud: A New Map of Bengali Nationalism" on the second day. Premiere Bank Ltd. and Summit Group have sponsored the festival, which is partnered by BSA, Bengal Foundation, Pathshala South Asian Media Institute, and Moviyaana Film Society.

Qayyum Chowdhury
Memories that linger

TABIBUR ISLAM BABU

On the afternoon of November 24, I visited a book fair arranged by The Daily Prothom Alo, at the Public Library. I purchased a book of rhymes "Tohar Sathe Rang Rekhat" by Qayyum Chowdhury. Later, I entered the seminar room where Prothom Alo had arranged the publication ceremony of "Amar Bela Je Jaye", an autobiography by late journalist ABM Musa. There, I encountered Dr. Anisuzzaman, Qayyum Chowdhury, Syed Abul Maksud and Editor of Prothom Alo, Matiuir Rahman. On seeing Qayyum bhai, I requested him to write a few words for my granddaughter Nuzhat Nusaiba in his book. Qayyum bhai told me, "Don't you want the autograph of the painter of the book?" I was a bit taken aback. I asked him who he was referring to. Qayyum Bhai pointed to a five-year old child, seated beside him -- none other than his grandson Atanu. Qayyum Bhai told the young boy, "This is your



Chacha; sign an autograph for him." Little Atanu bashfully signed the book just under his grandfather's autograph. It was a memorable moment. I took a photograph of dear Atanu with Qayyum Bhai. I used to regularly engage Qayyum Bhai in long conversations at Gazi Shahabuddin's Sachitra Sandhani office at Purana Paltan. When we visited New Delhi, Kolkata and Jaipur in 1983 to perform Mir Mosharrif Hossain's "Jamidar Darpan" on the invitation of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations as state guests, Qayyum Bhai painted the poster of the play which won wide acclaim in Bangladesh and India. We have lost one of the brightest sons of our soil. We will cherish his memory. May Allah rest his soul in eternal peace. The writer is a veteran theatre actor and director.

TV WATCH Rashid Khan's BCMF '13 performance on Maasranga



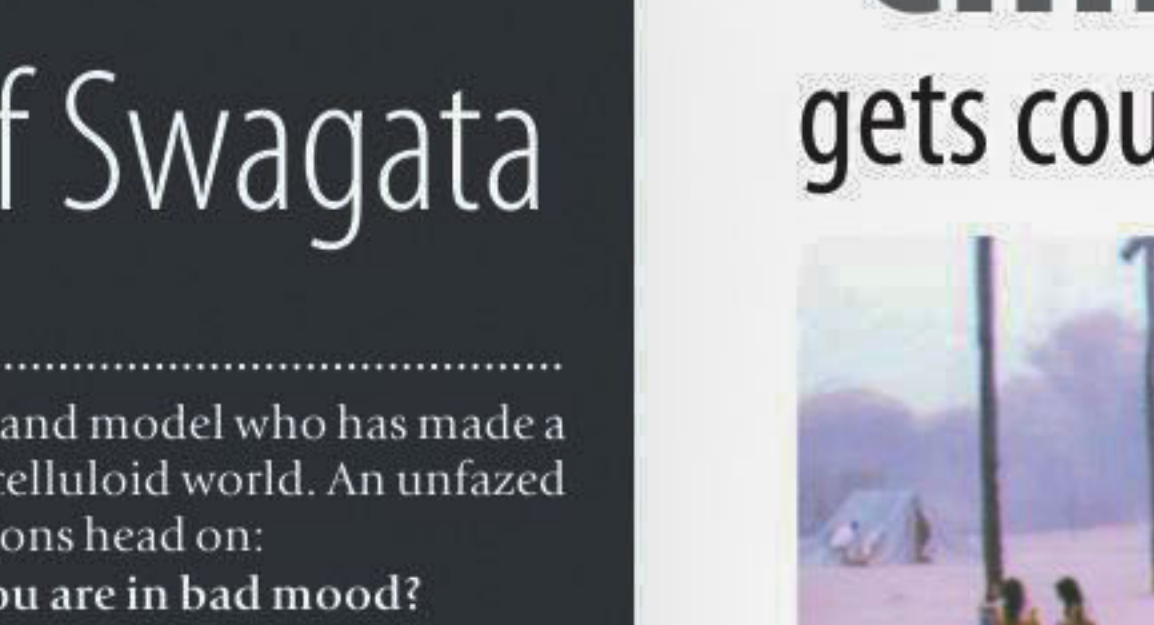
A CORRESPONDENT

Maasranga Television is broadcasting the performances of Classical Music maestros at last year's Bengal Classical Music Festival 2013, every Friday and Saturday. As part of the series, tonight and tomorrow's episodes will feature the performance of the great Ustad Rashid Khan. The artiste performed a meditative, melancholic raga -- Malkauns at last year's festival, followed by a Chhoto Khyal on Raga Sohini Bahar and the immortal Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan thumri "Yaad Piya Ki Aaye". His accompanists were Allarakha Kalavant on Srangi, Pandit Jyoti Goho on harmonium, Pandit Shubhankar Banerjee on tabla and Krishna Bongane on vocal support. Swikriti Prasad Barua has produced the programme for Maasranga TV, which is the TV partner of the festival for the last three years.

Meet the Faces: A unique exhibit of cartoons by Mitu

FAYZA HAQ

"Meet the Faces" at La Galerie of Alliance Francaise, is the first caricature exhibition of its kind in Bangladesh. The cartoons by Nasreen Sultana Mitu would make even the serious burst out laughing. Mitu has been working professionally since 2006, and is currently assistant editor for Unmad magazine. The exhibit, which began on December 5, ends on December 18, unless extended by popular demand. Ahsan Habib, Shishir Bhattacharjee and Nurul Kabir were the special guests at the inauguration. About the exhibition, founder editor and publisher of Unmad, Ahsan Habib says, "She began working with us in 2011 with her unorthodox and extraordinary expressions of the human face. Since then she has joined an English daily, mocking and criticising political



leaders. It is an exclusive form of art that goes beyond the limits of pop culture and politics." Mitu is a lecturer in Education and Research at Rajshahi University. The 30 cartoons, depicting 22 celebrities of Bangladesh, along with the iconic figures of Pablo Neruda, Frida Kahlo, Salvador Dali and Lionel Messi. A self-portrait is included in this amusing string of funny faces. The public figures are sometimes a subject of laughter, if not derision. A sample: Actress Babita has got broad and funny with the years. This brings laughter to the populace. So does the large size of singer Runa Laila, who was one petite and angelic by all standards, when she first arrived in Bangladesh. The likes of artist Ferdousi Priyabashini and even SM Sultan were not left untouched. The

whiskers of Salvador Dali did look weird and laughable as Mitu has depicted it to be. He does decisively look like a massive moving tree as the cartoonist has depicted her. The artist does not mean to be harsh but face facts as they stand. The cartoons do not make the figures just laughable. They present the persons as they are, heightening the characters, for instance with their glasses or a pipe, bulging folds on the faces, the monstrous "teep" on the forehead, the lock of hair on the forehead, the darkly painted lips, the broad, bulging girth, the squinted eyes, the balding head, the huge spectacles, a beak-like nose, etc. The cartoonist has picked up special features of the characters and heightened them -- as all good cartoonists do with dexterity.

TÊTE-À-TÊTE



Milon did a fantastic job in "Prem Korbo Tomar Sathe" ...Momo

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Momo a popular face on the small screen has made waves with her first film "Daruchini Dweep" that won her a National Film Awards. Now after a long hiatus, the celebrated artiste's new film was released on the first week of December. In a relaxed conversation with The Daily Star, Momo opened up about her new film and other subjects. So what is new about "Prem Korbo Tomar Sathe"? Momo: This is a romantic action film and audiences will get to see a new side of me, quite different from the character I played in "Daruchini Dweep". The cast and crew have put in their utmost to make a success of the film. In particular, Anisur Rahman Milon and the director did a fantastic job. What about the playback songs? Momo: The film features six tracks. One of them played back by Arafin Rumi is a mind-blowing song. Another song enacted in the rain, lip-synched by Milon and me, is very beautiful too. Any upcoming movies? Momo: Directed by Shihab Shahin, "Chhuyia Diley Mon" is based on a dramatic story. Dubbing is nearly over. The film has good prospects as it has been made by an acclaimed director. You want to appear on celluloid more frequently? Momo: The film industry of our country has picked up, as high calibre movies are now being made. Besides, talented filmmakers have staged an entry. I do plan to appear in films more frequently but it all depends on how much time I have and the prospects. How many films do you have at hand? Momo: Although I've got several offers from directors, I'm very choosy about my roles. Actually I don't want to rush into things, I want to step carefully. What do you look for before you agree to sign up for a new movie? Momo: Definitely the calibre of the director, script and cast. Do you encounter any hurdles working in TV plays and films simultaneously? Momo: No, because film shootings are spaced out. When I'm busy with TV plays, I do not shoot any films. On the other hand, when I am shooting for a film I do not work for television. I like to compartmentalise my acting career.

Visual poetry of melody and rhythm

ZAHANGIR ALOM, writes from Kolkata

The Uday Shankar Dance Festival 2014 reached great heights on the third evening (December 10), featuring four solos and two group performances at Rabindra Sadan, Kolkata, India. Shelly Sarkar first took the stage with a Kathak solo to live music performances. Guest artiste Dr. Lima Das from Gwahati, Assam came next to the rhythm of a solo Sattriya dance which was extremely graceful. A physician by profession, Lima's passion revolves around Sattriya dance, a beautiful dance form created by the Vaishnava saint Mahapurusha Sreemanta Shankara Dev -- who left rich literary, cultural and religious legacies that predominantly influence Assamese life. Lima started off with a pure dance form, and followed it up with an abhinaya dance, depicting a saga called Draupadi's vastraharana from the Mahabharata. She took extracts from the Sanskrit and Assamese versions of Mahabharata, and generated exquisite expressions and devotion in her performance. Shyamoni Dasgupta performed a Odissi solo at the festival. She blossomed the pallavi



PHOTO: RUDWAN ADIB RUPON

also enlivened Lord Shiva and was set on raga Yaman Kalyan and taal khanda chakra. Directed by Ashimbandhu Bhattacharya, artistes of Upasana Centre for Dance presented several dance pieces on the title "Parikrama". The artistes showed the cycle of life through evoking shringar and various ananda rasa, incorporating nuances of Radha Krishna in Vrindavan, the evolution of Kathak from temples to royal courts and on stages exerting experimental, fusion based and contemporary movements. The artistes danced to a melodious Hindi song "Dil Bhi Toh Hai", followed by a performance set on a tarana that incorporated gat, chalan, ladi, tehai and chakradar padan. Kathak is the only dance form that was nurtured by both the Hindus and the Muslims. Several artistes in veils performed a piece creating the ambience of Mughal darbar on stage. The artistes of Gaudiya Nritya Bharati were prominent in their portrayal of three visual poetics -- Chandi Vandana, Krishna Raam Katha and Ardh-Narishwar -- themed on Indian religious-mythical nuances. Professor

Mohua Mukherjee directed all the pieces, while taking part in two. Amitava Mukherjee and Ayan Mukherjee directed music for the performances. In Chandi Vandana, the artistes showcased 10 forms of Mahavidya through their flawless mudras, depicting the precise expression of Kali, Tara, Bhuvaneshwari, Shodoshi, Bhairavi, Chhinnamasta, Dhumabati, Matangi, Bogola and Kamola in distinctive styles. Dr. Mohua Mukherjee acted out her solo presentation of "Krishna Raam Katha" with diminutive expressions. Being a pioneer of the form, Professor Mukherjee's choreographies were imbued with great artistic passion and devotion. Mingling the myth of prakriti and purusha with the unique choreography of Gaudiya dance, Bangladeshi artiste Rachel Priyanka Peris with her Indian counterpart Ayan Mukherjee performed a duet piece titled "Ardha-Narishwar". Rachel's grace and Ayan's vigour represented the epitome of Parvati and Shiva respectively. The artiste duo later immersed in speedy yet immaculate throwing of mudra, expression and emotion, with several accompanying artistes, winning rounds of applause.

RAPID FIRE The world of Swagata

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Swagata is a popular TV actresses and model who has made a foray into the hurly-burly of the celluloid world. An unfazed Swagata met our quick fire questions head on: What do you usually do when you are in bad mood? Swagata: Listen to music or go out. What is your biggest fear? Swagata: On the whole, I don't fear anything. What would you do if you could go back to your childhood? Swagata: Fired with enthusiasm, I would begin afresh. What would you like to be if not an actress? Swagata: A singer. Ever talk to yourself in front of the mirror? Swagata: I usually do it at home. Who do you want to come home to after shooting wraps up? Swagata: It used to be my father. But after his demise, I don't have the same level of longing to be home. A little known quality about you? Swagata: I am a good family person. What would you do if you wielded power? Swagata: I would do something to give the country a cultural boost. You scared of ghosts? Swagata: No. When are you on top of the world? Swagata: When I get the opportunity to play a positive character.



CHILDREN OF WAR gets nationwide re-release today



A CORRESPONDENT

Film "Children of War" is re-releasing today across the country ahead of the Victory Day on December 16, says a press release. The film has a blood-soaked plot set in 1971 when Bangladesh was born out of the most horrific violence perpetrated against humanity. "Children of War" is the debut film of Indian director Mrityunjay Devratt. The film surround a family living in a village in 1971. When a journalist turns Freedom Fighter and leaves home to fight for the country, his wife goes through nightmarish experiences. An illegitimate child is born. The film is the story of this child. These children have no identity and they are still waiting for our acceptance. Rama Sen, Indranil Sengupta, Farukh Sheikh, Victor Banerjee, Paban Malhotra and others are in the lead cast. The film is being re-released by the Ministry of Information.

Christened after stars

Fandom is a big part of Bollywood, not unlike any other entertainment industry in the world. While naming roads and streets to the name of celebrities is quite a common phenomenon, Bollywood fans often go onboard and have more unusual choices to be named after their favourite star. Here's a selection: Amlabh Bachchan: Be it his looks, baritone voice, angry man persona, exuberance or humility, Amlabh Bachchan is arguably the most-loved Indian actor of all times. Hence, it's unsurprising that a waterfall has been named after him. The waterfall, originally called Naga Falls, lies on the road connecting Chughtang to Yumthang Valley in North Sikkim district. It is said the renaming was done because of the height of the waterfall. Salman Khan: Salman is extremely popular among the masses in India, and abroad. While shooting in Turkey for the film "Ek Tha Tiger" in 2012, a cafe became Salman's regular haunt, and he felt that the cafe needed a face-lift. As a result, he suggested some changes -- from décor and music, to food and beverage menu. The owners of Cafe Del-Mar renamed their cafe as Salman Khan Café, keeping in mind his popularity as well as his helpful nature. Sanjay Dutt: So while there is a café named after Salman, a chicken delicacy is named after his contemporary, Sanjay Dutt. The owner of Noor Mohammadi Hotel in Bhandi Bazaar in Mumbai named a dish of chicken after Sanjay Dutt as a gesture of gratitude. The recipe of that dish was given by the actor, and became an instant hit, much like his films. Aishwarya Rai Bachchan: Considered one of the most beautiful women of the world, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has made India proud on the global platforms several times. A special variety of tulip flower was named after her in Netherlands, reportedly as a celebration of her beauty. Shahid Kapoor and Madhuri Dixit-Nene: '90s Bollywood queen Madhuri Dixit-Nene and the dashing actor Shahid Kapoor both have actual stars in the sky named after them. Both the stars are reportedly situated in the Orion constellation, and were booked by their fans through the official website starfoundry.net, that allows people to 'buy' the rights to names of celestial bodies.

Chirkutt and Raghav perform today at IGCC

A CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate the 44th Victory Day of Bangladesh, India Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) is organising a musical evening by Bangladeshi Band Chirkutt and Raghav Chatterjee from India at its Dhannondi premises today. Raghav Chatterjee started his journey in music as a guitarist at the age of



nine. He initially started learning from his mother, and then under Dr. Amya Ranjan Banerjee and Pt. Ajoy Chakraborty for six years at ITC-SRA. Recently he is taking lessons from Ustad Rashid Khan. He has released a number of Bangla and Hindi albums, and has worked with the top composers of his country. Raghav usually sings his own compositions. Chirkutt, established in the year 2002, has carved out a niche in Bangladesh with their energetic live performances and powerful lyrics. Chirkutt's eclectic compositions defy genre or classification and they have eventually come to be described as an 'epic fusion' band. Chirkutt has two albums, a great deal of airplay and TV and film soundtracks to their credit.