


WHAT'S ON
Solo Painting Exhibition
 Artist: Jamal Ahmed
 Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts, AJ Heights, Cha 72/1/D, Progoti Shorani, Uttar Badda
 Date: Jan 9-31
 Time: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays)



Chobi Mela VIII
 Organiser: Pathshala and Drik
 Venue: Different locations in Dhaka
 Date: Jan 23-Feb 5
 Time: 10-8pm

CHOBIMELA VIII
 INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY BANGLADESH

8th International Children's Film Festival
 Organiser: Bangladesh Children's Film Society
 Venue: Central Public Library, BNM, BSA
 Date: January 24-30; Time: 10-8pm



Made in Bangladesh
 Organiser: Sadhona and Goethe Institut Dhaka
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: January 26
 Time: 7pm



Art Exhibition
 Chronology
 Artist: Kazi Rakib
 Venue: Galleri Kaya
 Date: Jan 17-30pm
 Time: 11am-7:30pm

KAZI RAKIB



Madhu Mela in Jessore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking the 191th birth anniversary of poet Michael Madhusudan Dutta, a seven-day fair, titled "Madhu Mela", began at Sagardari village in Jessore on January 23. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor inaugurated the festival in presence of other distinguished guests. The inauguration ceremony was presided over by Deputy Commissioner of Jessore, Dr. Humayun Kabir.

A large crowd is gathering every day on the bank of Kapotakkho River for the fair. Stalls have been set up at the fair ground apart from jatra, circus, nagordola, and other forms of rural entertainment for the visitors. The fair also features discussion and lecture on the poet's life and works.

Though the fair usually begins on January 25, on the birthday of the poet, this year's fair began two days earlier because of SSC Examinations.

IT'S TRUE!



In 2001, Bob Marley was posthumously awarded the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, and a feature-length documentary about his life, "Rebel Music", won various awards at the Grammys. Internationally, Marley's message also continues to reverberate amongst various indigenous communities. The Australian Aborigines continue to burn a sacred flame to honour his memory in Sydney's Victoria Park, while members of the Amerindian Hopi and Havasupai tribe revere his work. There are also many tributes to Bob Marley throughout India, including restaurants, hotels, and cultural festivals.



Larry Towell's stories outside the frame

SAURAV DEY

With every new day, Chobi Mela VIII is unfolding new horizons to the people with penchant for photography and visual art. On the second day of the fest, celebrated Magnum photographer Larry Towell was the centre of attraction at an Artist Talk session at the Goethe Institut Dhaka.

At the session, Larry presented selections from his works that he had shot in El Salvador, Afghanistan, Kiev, Ontario and Mexico for decades. His presentations, both photographs and video, were accompanied by verses and songs written by him.

Larry, a photographer, poet, songwriter and oral historian, has documented life in conflict zones across the world for a long period. Larry is a humanist, and is interested in photographing the lives and social conditions of people living in vulnerable areas.

He photographed the agonizing tales of people in Afghanistan in both visual and audio-visual formats from 2008-2011. From the aftermath of Soviet invasion to the recent war and socio-political turmoil, Larry presented a moving, in-depth look at the country where life and landscapes are equally affected by the persistent conflict. From military camps to domestic interiors to hospitals, Larry's photos give a comprehensive look at the hope and despair of Afghan citizens, the complexity of conflict and an ever-present struggle for survival. Larry's audio-visual documentation is powerful enough to take one to the scene.

Then he showed clips from the Independent Square in the Ukrainian capital Kiev where he documented a group of people struggling for identity. Larry searched for images that could tell story outside the frame. For years he has taken many incredible and

heart-rending images which tell story from inside out.

The Canadian photographer has travelled extensively in different parts of the world, and its impact in shaping his perception is visible in his photographs. From his front porch to the dreary landscapes in Asia, Larry tells it as it is.

His works "The Mennonites" boast striking images of the group of people who have been living outside the society. Larry documented their lifestyle for 10 years in Mexico, and when he finished his works, Larry knew that he had developed affection for the Mennonites.

With their absolute simplicity and immense power of storytelling, Larry's works are unique. And seeing the master giving a presentation was indeed a once-in-lifetime experience.

Wars and conflicts have tremendous impacts on Larry's own mind, but he has hatred for war, said the photographer during the session.

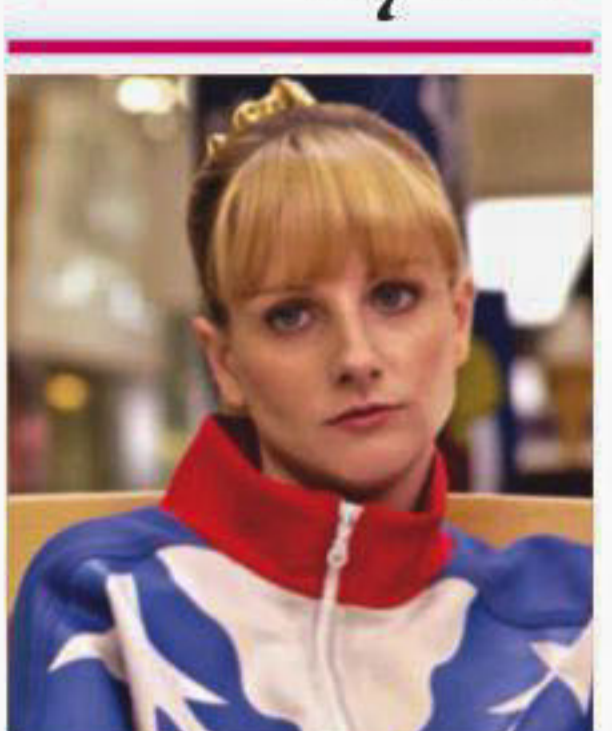
Saba turns executive producer for "Dour"

A CORRESPONDENT

Actress Sohana Saba has appeared in movies such as "Khelaghar", "Chandrakatha", "Priyotommeshu", "Brihonnola" and "Aina", after making her film debut with "Aina". She is now all set to act in her 6th film "Dour", directed by Murad Parvez. Shooting for the film is scheduled to begin in March this year. Besides playing the title role in the movie, Saba is also emerging as an executive producer through the film. Emon Shaha is likely to direct music for "Dour".



NEWS bytes



Relativity buys "The Bronze" at Sundance

Media company Relativity has nabbed the bawdy comedy "The Bronze" for \$3 million.

The film features a foul-mouthed former Olympic gymnast, played by "The Big Bang Theory" star Melissa Rauch, that's very much in the tradition of "Big Santa". There had been some back and forth about the number of screens the picture will roll out on when it debuts in theatres, but those issues were resolved on Saturday.

Variety first reported that Relativity had made an initial offer on the film. The sum was originally at about \$2 million but climbed as talks progressed.

The movie co-stars Sebastian Stan of "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" fame and Gary Cole. It was the opening-night film at the Sundance Film Festival.

Though bidding has been heated, some major distributors seemed skeptical about the film's commercial prospects considering its risqué nature. Studios such as Lionsgate, Fox Searchlight and CBS Films never threw their hats in the ring.

Source: Variety

8th ICFE opens in Dhaka



Guests at the inauguration.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 8th International Children's Film Festival (ICFF) 2015 was inaugurated on January 24 amid much enthusiasm, and a promise to frame the future. Children's Film Society Bangladesh is organising the festival.

The fest, simultaneously running in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet, was inaugurated by Finance Minister AMA Muhith who was also the chief guest. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor attended the inaugural ceremony as special guest, while noted artist Mustafa Monwar presided over the event held at the Central Public

Library premises.

Among others, president of CFS, Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal; General Secretary Munira Morshed Munni and festival director Rayed Morshed spoke at the ceremony.

The main part of the festival opened later in the evening with the screening of German film "Lola on the Pea". This edition of ICFE is featuring over 200 films from more than 48 countries. Fifty child filmmakers from around the country have also received invitation to join the festival.

The festival, open for all, runs free every day till January 30.

Kirwani Orchestra enthralls audience

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

The diverse performances with different musical instruments by Kirwani Orchestra and Bangladeshi musician Sazed Ul Alam mesmerised music aficionados of the port city on Thursday evening.

Kirwani Orchestra, a well-known Jazz band from Sweden, presented their performances at the fusion classical music evening at Aniruddha Mukto Mancha of District Shilpakala Academy, where music enthusiasts of the port city experienced an exceptional range of music, ranging from western Jazz to contemporary eastern classical music. Chittagong Musical Band Association supported the programme.

The entire Shilpakala Academy premises were teeming with young music enthusiasts. Sazed Ul Alam, the founder of the Souls - one of the country's most popular bands -- who is currently living in Spain, performed at the



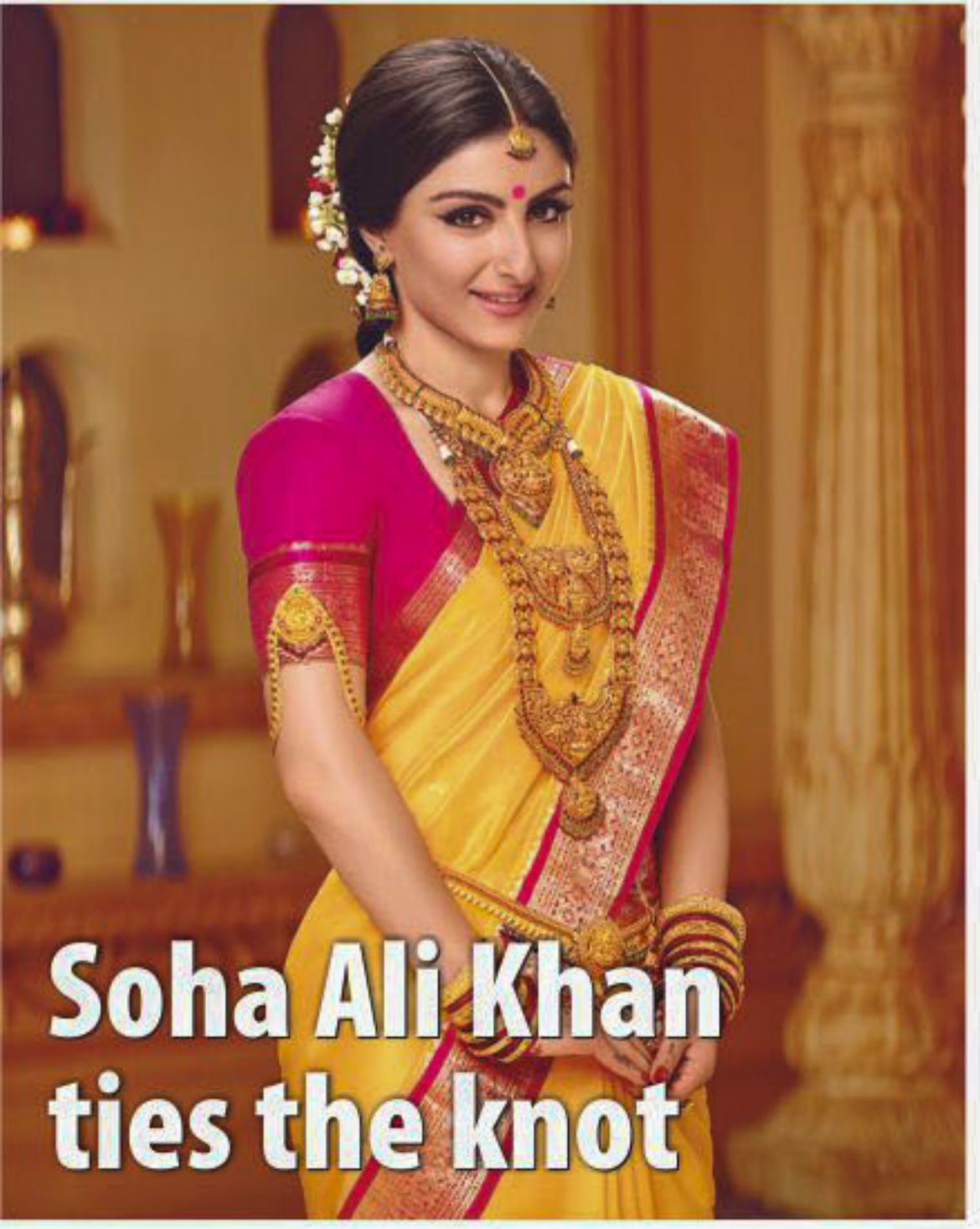
PHOTO: STAR

programme as part of the Kirwani Orchestra. At the programme, Sazed played the sitar, keyboard, guitar and ektara, while Anatholi Bulkin from Sweden played lead guitar. Swedish artist Martin Norberg played saxophone while Per Henry Levi Knagg was on bass guitar. Surojato Roy from India was on tabla and Andreas Baw from Sweden played drums with the team.

The programme started with a folk tune, blended with a Jazz melody.

Later, the group successively performed different sub-continental and western fusion compositions. The composition "Ancient Cry" was worth mentioning at the programme. Especially Anatholi Bulkin's guitar and Martin Norberg's saxophone were magnificent during the presentation. Later, with Sazed's sitar -- the team performed a Hindustani raga that touched the heart of audiences.

Later, Tapan Chowdhury performed a Bangla song with the group and Souls members. The audience returned home entertained to a few Jazz items of their request and Spanish pieces by the band.



Soha Ali Khan ties the knot

Soha Ali Khan, who tied the knot with Kunal Khemu on January 25 will start shooting for Ghayal 2 in February. Soha has no time for honeymoon, said the actress. "Our families decided the wedding date. I am never one to dream about the day since I was a young girl. I'm quite excited. It's a big step," she added. She also said that her mother, Sharmila Tagore, has given her some lovely jewellery and they have selected some beautiful outfits together. Her sister-in-law, Kareena Kapoor has also been very helpful and involved in all the planning, she told the media.

Source: TOI

BIRDMAN wins best film at Producers' Guild Award

"Birdman" has won the Producers Guild of America's Darryl F. Zanuck Award for best movie -- elevating its status as an awards-season front-runner since the last seven PGA winners have gone on to win the Best Picture Oscar.

Fox Searchlight's dark comedy, starring Michael Keaton as a washed-up film star, topped "American Sniper", "Boyhood", "Foxcatcher", "Gone Girl", "Grand Budapest Hotel", "The Imitation Game", "Nightcrawler", "The Theory of Everything" and "Whiplash."

"Boyhood" had been the consensus favorite to win the PGA trophy -- based on voting by more than 6,700 PGA members -- with "American Sniper", "Birdman" and "Imitation Game" pegged as the most likely to score an upset.

The award went to directors Alejandro G. Inarritu, John Lesher and James W. Skotchdopole.

"They want me to talk so that I make you laugh with my bad English," Inarritu said. "On behalf of all of us, our only ambition was to make a risky and experimental exploration of the cinematic language, of an artist's complexity played by the incredible Michael

Keaton." The PGA's Zanuck award has become a strong indicator of Oscar sentiment in recent years, matching the Oscar for best picture in 18 of its 25 years -- including the last seven.

The top TV awards went to the final season of AMC's "Breaking Bad", Netflix's "Orange is the New



Black" and FX's "Fargo."

"Breaking Bad" won the Norman Felton Award for top drama series for the second year in a row, topping "Downton Abbey", "Game of Thrones", "House of Cards" and "True Detective."

FX's "Fargo" won the David L. Wolper Award for longform TV. The drama -- based on the 1996 film of the same name by the Coen Brothers -- topped "American

Horror Story", "The Normal Heart", "The Roosevelts: An Intimate History" and "Sherlock."

Netflix's "Orange is the New Black" won the Danny Thomas award for top comedy series. The win by the groundbreaking prison-set series denied ABC's "Modern Family" its fifth consecutive award in the category. "Orange is the New Black" also topped "The Big Bang Theory", "Louis" and "Veep."

Earlier, "The Lego Movie" took the PGA's top animated movie award -- nine days after it was overlooked in the Oscar nominations.

"Life Itself," the biographical film about the late Roger Ebert, won the PGA documentary award.

"The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" won the Live Entertainment and Talk Television award. NBC's "The Voice" took the competition TV award.

Jennifer Lawrence received the biggest laughs of the night with her intro of Lionsgate chief Jon Feltheimer. "Jon has been in this business for longer than I've been alive -- I love saying that," she said at one point.

Source: Internet