

WHAT'S ON

Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2015
Venue: Bangla Academy Premises, Dhaka
Date: February 1-28
Time: 3-8pm & 11am-8pm (Fridays)

Khamkheyali Shobha
Venue: Bova Shahitya Kendra Auditorium
Date: Feb 6
Time: 6-8pm

Group Painting Exhibition
Title: The Paradoxical Now
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya
Date: Feb 10-23
Time: 12pm-8pm

Group Painting Exhibition
Title: Taste of Light and Darkness
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Time: 6pm
Date: Feb 7-22

An Evening of Nazrul Sangeet
Artist: Reheka Sultan
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Center, Gulshan-1
Date: Feb 7
Time: 6:30pm

Bangladesh Malaysia Poet Summit
Organiser: Kutha, Bangladesh
Venue: National Art Gallery Auditorium, BSA
Date: Feb 6
Time: 5:30pm - 7:30pm

WFMP Film Show
Organiser: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Venue: AFD
Date: Feb 11-12
Time: 4pm

ANUSHKA'S new look in Bombay Velvet



It's finally out, and, as expected, it has set the virtual world on fire. Anushka Sharma's look in director Anurag Kashyap's forthcoming film "Bombay Velvet" is one of those not-to-be-missed make-up artistry that come out of Bollywood's very seldom these days.

The black-and-white image, posted by the actress herself on Twitter, shows her as a stylish uptown club singer of the late 1960s. She plays a night club singer Rosie Noronha in the film, which explores the dark underbelly of the then Bombay. Such night clubs were popular among the nouveau riche of those times.

Based on Gyan Prakash's book "Mumbai Fables", the film is set in the backdrop of Mumbai in the early 1950s and 1960s. Anushka Sharma plays Ranbir Kapoor's love interest in the film. "Bombay Velvet" will also see filmmaker Karan Johar playing a negative role for the first time. The film is set to be released on May 15.

Source: Hindustan Times

"We stayed on a boat for five hours shooting a song" ... Mim

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

The multi-talented Bidya Sinha Mim is a model, TV and film actress. Now with several films on hand, the celebrity's focus is on celluloid.

In a brief conversation with The Daily Star, Mim talked about her film career.

What is your recent film?
Mim: I'm busy shooting for "Sweetheart", a film where I co-star with Riaz and Bappi. It is a family drama in which I play the role of a Christian girl. Soon we will go to Bangkok for shooting its songs.

It is your first movie with Riaz?
Mim: Yes. Earlier, I acted in a TV play "Rahasshamoi" opposite him.

What about "Paddo Patar Jol"?
Mim: Ninety percent of the shooting is over. The audience will see me in a new avatar in the film. There's more: We had great fun shooting the movie in Rangamati. Yes it was tough going. We had to stay aboard boat for about five hours shooting a song.

You also acted in the film "Good Morning London" by director Tania Ahmed?

Mim: The London shoot is over but we still have to do the Bangladesh segment. I enjoyed a rickshaw ride with a Britisher during the shoot, a memorable moment for me.

No recent TV plays?

Mim: As I'm now very serious about cinema, I keep away from performing in TV plays but still do TVCs.

What are your future plans?

Mim: I am waiting for films based on exciting plots. I hope they will give me greater exposure. Tell us about your first film that was directed by Humayun Ahmed.

Mim: After completing the shooting of "Amar Achhe Jol", Humayun sir told me that I would get an award for the movie. He proved right: Although I did not win the National Film Awards, I got the Meril Prothom Alo Award.

TV WATCH



Special programme on the legendary Feroza Begum

A CORRESPONDENT

In memory of legendary Nazrul Sangeet Artist Feroza Begum, a special TV programme titled "Feroza Begum-Smrutitey Adorey" will go on air on Maasranga Television at 11am today. Mohammad Asafuddowla, noted lyricist, singer and a brother of the late artist, will talk down memory lane on the show. Apart from this, he will render a song, written and composed by him on Feroza Begum.

Artists such as Yasmin Mushtari, Susmita Anis, Mohammad Shoeb, Anupama Mukti, Mazharul Islam Talash, Mimi Farhana Haque and Sheikh Ruhul Amin will also render songs at the programme.

REMINISCENCE

"Suchitra was Chashi mama's first choice for 'Shubhoda'" ...Anwara

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Seasoned actress Anwara came into spotlight with her dazzling performance in the film "Nawab Sirajuddaula", where she played a character named Aleya. Then in 1986, she received the National Film Award as the best actress for the movie "Shubhoda", directed by the late Chashi Nazrul Islam. She also appeared in "Debdas", another acclaimed movie by the director. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, Anwara fondly reminisced on the noted filmmaker.

"I used to address thespian director as Chashi mama. We shared a good bonding. He was an acclaimed filmmaker and a very big-hearted man. Such a combination is very rare.

"Under his direction, I played the role of Chandramukhi in 'Devdas'. Besides, I played the title role in his film 'Shubhoda'; both the works fetched me great fame. 'Shubhoda' was my dream project as I got the opportunity to play the title role. Though legendary actress Suchitra Sen was his first choice, she could not allocate the time. He then offered Suchandra the role but she was equally busy with her own production. Chashi mama then called me over the telephone and offered me his dream role.

"Later, as we headed for a shoot outside Dhaka on a launch, I began to read a book named 'Shubhoda' that I had bought from a hawkler on the vessel. With hardly any make-up, I started shooting for the film. It was very difficult to play my role as in one scene my child



was supposed to have passed away. I was overwhelmed but just could not weep. However, after the shot I burst into tears. Chashi uncle also wept and this memory remains with me.

"I have so many other memories of him. I had a really difficult time playing the character of Chandramukhi in 'Debdas'. But Chashi mama was adroit at drawing the best out of an artiste."

Reviving timeless Bangla songs In conversation with Sohini Alam

SAURAV DEY

Sohini Alam, a soulful British singer of Bangladeshi descent, has a firm grip over different genres of music. The lead vocalist of London-based band Khijo (and Afro-Cuban band Lokkhi Tera) first came to notice when Khijo's rendition of Bangladesh's national anthem "Amar Sonar Bangla", went viral on the social media. Sohini's soulful voice and Khijo's unique arrangement of music has given a new dimension to some classic Bangla songs.

This correspondent recently caught up with her when she visited Dhaka as part of Komola Collective's tour of Bangladesh with their stage play "Birangona".

Tell us your side of the story behind "Amar Shona'r Bangla".
Sohini: We rearranged "Amar Sonar Bangla" out of our love for the song, and made a video since we thought it would introduce listeners to our music arrangement. "Purbo Digonte" was a random release; the complete song is in our album. The debut album was released on August 28, 2014 in the UK. I hope the digital release will happen here soon. The album, "Khijo", contains two Nazrul tracks, one Lalou song and a few other tracks of my choice.

Tell us about the music you do.

Sohini: I do a lot of genres of music but primarily I specialise in Nazrul Sangeet. I have a soft corner for timeless Bangla songs. And one of the reasons behind forming Khijo was to revive those songs as the new generation of listeners is not very familiar with them. They don't listen to those songs, and the music arrangement is one of the key

reasons. Our generation is fond of western instruments, and we tried to give the old songs a modern makeover so that they draw new listeners.

You lent your voice for Akram Khan's "DESH". How did that come together?

Sohini: My mother used to teach music among the Bangladeshi community in London, while Akram's mother used to teach dance. I knew Akram as Shubho bhaia from my childhood. However, we lost touch when I moved from England. On my return to London, I used to follow Akram Khan's show but did not know he was my childhood acquaintance. One day I met his mother at a show, and only then I came to know that he had become a superstar.

Meanwhile, Jocelyn Pook, the music composer of "DESH", was looking for a Bengali vocalist, and Leesa aka (Leesa Gazi) suggested my name. Jocelyn recorded a song and sent that to Akram, and he said that the rendition had a "lot of soul". He did not know initially that I was the singer.

How did you get involved with Komola Collective and Birangona?

Sohini: I am one of the four founder members of Komola Collective. We have a very strong team; Leesa aka writes, Filiz Ozcan is a director, Caitlin Abbott is a designer and I am a singer. We initiated the company so that we can do women-centric works.

Any thoughts about stage show in Dhaka?

Sohini: I would love to, but the issue of sponsorship comes up. It is expensive to bring the band here and hold shows. Hopefully, it will happen someday.



Kabikantho's homage to Fazal Shahbuddin



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kabikantho paid homage to poet Fazal Shahbuddin by celebrating his 75th birth anniversary and publishing a memorial book on him.

Kabikantho organised the programme at the National Art Plaza auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on February 4.

Poetry lovers turned out enthusiastically for the event.

Among the notables present were wife of Fazal Shahbuddin, Azimiri Shahabuddin; Malaysian National Poet Dato Dr. Ahmad

Kamal Abdullah and Dutch poet Dr. Germaine Droogenbroodt.

At the discussion session, guests including Fazal's close friend Hanunur Rashid, shared their memories of Fazal. They also focused on the life and works of Fazal, terming him a great poet.

Later, elocutionist Camelia read excerpts from one of Fazal's works.

Fazal, endearingly termed "a poet of nature", wrote several books and contributed significantly to Bangla literature. His talent found recognition when he received the Bangla Academy Literature Award in 1973 and the Ekushey Padak in 1988.

SILVER SCREEN

Ruhi's BIG day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is a big day for model-turned-actress Ruhi. Two of her films -- "Zero Degree" and "Glamour" -- are set to be released in Dhaka and Kolkata today.

"I am ecstatic that two of my movies will be released in two countries the same day," Ruhi told The Daily Star.

In "Zero Degree", Ruhi plays the role of a modern working woman who at one stage leaves her husband and family for what she sees as the glamour of life overseas. However, she finally returns to her own country when her fantasies have been played out.

"It was a very challenging character; I had to go into overdrive to portray the character perfectly," said the actress.

On the film "Glamour", Ruhi said "It is also a positive film."

On the closing day of the first National Dance Drama Festival held recently, Pallabi Dance Theatre presented "Bishwaye Jagey Pran" at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

PHOTO COURTESY: SHAHADAT PARVEZ

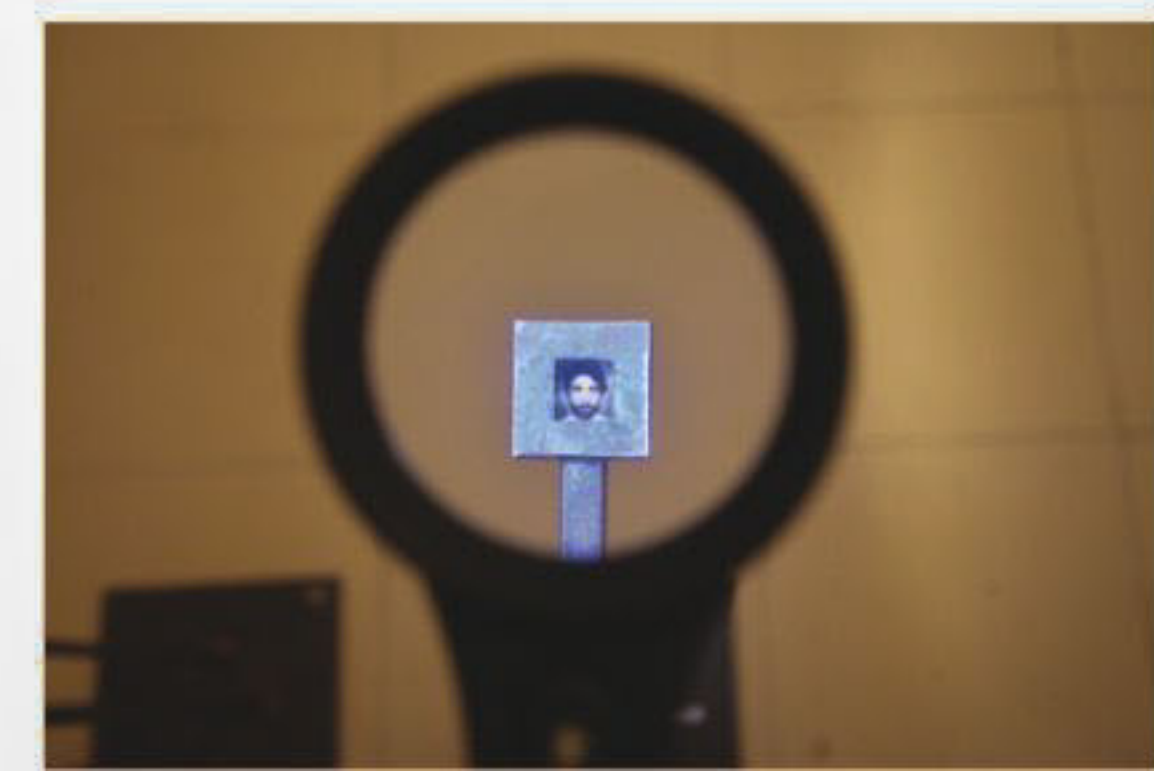


Chobi Mela Promises to Return



Chobi Mela VIII, the biggest festival of photography in Asia, closed yesterday across 10 venues in Dhaka, drawing curtains on exhibitions by 30 photographers from 22 countries across the world on the theme of 'Intimacy'. Director of the festival, Shahidul Alam promised to bring the festival back in 2017 for a ninth edition, on a new theme and featuring newer, more avant-garde work. Here are glimpses of the exhibit that drew high praises from visiting artists and audiences.

PHOTO: STAR



Rtv star awards

The glittering Rtv Star Awards was held on Wednesday at a city hotel, in presence of stars of the TV and film arena. Awards were presented in 28 categories, while veteran cultural personality Kamal Lohani was conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award. Popular singers and noted models and dancers performed at the grand programme.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

