

WHAT'S ON

AMAR EKUSHEY
Book Fair 2015

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

Film Festival

Organiser: Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Int'l Digital Cultural
Archive, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Feb 17-28
Time: 6pm

Group Painting
Exhibition

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

Crafts Exhibition

Venue: Bangladesh National
Museum South Premises,
Dhaka
Date: February 20-24
Time: 9:30am-7pm

NEWS bytes

KRISTEN STEWART first US actress to win Cesar

Kristen Stewart has become the first US actress to win a Cesar award, the French equivalent of the Oscars. She got a best supporting actress gong for her role in film drama "Clouds of Sils Maria".

The big winner of the night was "Timbuktu", which won seven awards including best film and director. It depicts life in northern Mali under the control of Islamist militants, and is competing for best foreign film at Sunday's Oscars.

Accepting the prize, Stewart shouted "I love you Juliette" in French to her co-star Juliette Binoche. She later paid tribute to French filmmakers. "The reasons why people make films here in France are very different from the reasons why people make movies in Hollywood and I prefer it here a little bit," she told Variety.

There also was recognition for another American actor, Sean Penn, who got a lifetime achievement award.



"The curiosity of tomorrow keeps me going" ...Habib Wahid

SAURAV DEY
Starting from stage performances to song recordings and compositions in studios, singers traverse many steps. Moreover, they have personal lives too. In a recent conversation, popular singer-composer Habib Wahid spoke to The Daily Star about his passion, inspiration, dreams and more. Excerpts:

What is a live performer's worst nightmare?

Habib: While performing on stage, a singer might face awkward situations like a hiccup, sneeze or a sore throat. Sometimes the microphone could become displaced or there might be a disruption in the audio connection; but these are natural and you cannot blame anyone. A singer has to accept such glitches and continue performing.

Dos and don'ts of being a singer?

Habib: For a singer, it is absolutely essential that he or she practices regularly; there is no alternative to practice for proper control over voice. Also, a singer should be in sync with musicians, as the music being played on stage is equally important as the vocals. Moreover, there are many habits including smoking that are considered bad for singers, but alas, there are singers who don't pay too much of a heed to that.

How often do you practice singing?

Habib: I don't practice regularly, and I cannot call myself a singer that way. I am passionate about music, but I am not that professional in terms of singing. I am a composer-turned singer -- and like me, there are many in our industry. Apart from music, people like our personality and outlook and they accept us as a package.

Who is Habib outside of his music?

Habib: Music has crossed the boundaries of passion. Sometimes, I feel it is my work. Then I pause for some days, and again I feel the connection. Other than music, my passion is travelling. I prefer going abroad mostly since people spot me in local destinations which I don't like. I love to travel freely; it helps me be myself.

Who is your greatest inspiration?

Habib: I would say AR Rahman. He is a maestro -- equally adept at composing and singing, and what inspires me is his unique style of compositions. Since I am a composer-singer, my inspiration comes from him. I believe that composition comes first as our voice is useless unless music is composed properly.

What motivates you?

Habib: I don't have a specific dream. I want to live every day. At this moment, I am thinking about tomorrow -- which, to me, is a dream. The curiosity of tomorrow keeps me going.



Badhon in four serials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lux superstar Badhon is busy on the acting front. Although she was lying low, the model-actress is going full throttle ahead these days. Four of her TV serials are airing on various TV channels: "Dolchhut Projapoti" on ntv, "Jiboner Golpo" on Asian TV, "Shap-ludu" on Boishakhi Television and "Ghomta" on Banglavisian.

Badhon said that her performances had been widely appreciated, adding that she had begun work on a new serial, "Meghe Dhaka Tara".

TV SNIPPETS



New serial DOST DUSHMAN on Maasranga TV

A CORRESPONDENT

New drama serial "Dost Dushman" will air on Maasranga Television every Monday and Tuesday at 9:20pm starting from tonight. Written and directed by Mostafa Kamal Raj, the plot surrounds six university students.

The serials boasts a heavyweight cast including Allen Shubhro, Kazi Asif, Shabnam Faria, Tawsif Mahbub, Sonia Hossain, Tasnuva Tisha, Jenny, Faruk Ahmed, Dr. Ezaz, Bonna Mirza and Saju Khadem among others.



The ardour of Ekushey

The Amar Ekushey Book Fair bustled with an extra bit of buzz on Ekushey (21st) February, as people of all walks of life thronged the fair. Not all of them were there to buy books, though. Be it shopping for jewelry and toys, posing for portrait sketches or kids enjoying carnival rides, the festivities took a bigger dimension.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Handwriting competition in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Marking February 21, International Mother Language Day, Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala (art gallery) organised a 'Best Handwriting Competition' for children at its premises on Friday.

Two hundred and thirty six children from different education institutions of the town took part in the competition in four groups. Of them, 12 won the competition.

The judges of the competition were Mohammad Kamrul Hasan, assistant professor of Bengali Department of Govt. Ananda Mohan College and poet Yazdani Quraishy Kajal.

Earlier, Additional District Magistrate Mollica Khatun inaugurated the competition as chief guest. Dr. Bijoy Krishna Banik, deputy keeper of the art gallery chaired the event.

IT'S TRUE!

Ukrainian born actress Mila Kunis moved to USA when she was just seven years old, after her family won money from a lottery ticket. She couldn't speak English and struggled in her first year to settle down. Mila largely attributes her learning to speak English from the American TV show "The Price is Right". She landed her big break at the age of 14 as Jackie on "That '70s Show", playing alongside Ashton Kutcher, who she later dated. Mila is a self-proclaimed video-game nerd who loves to stay in most nights in favor of living the Hollywood life. She trained with a SWAT team to prepare for her role in "Max Payne".



World Cup to affect Bollywood box office?

The year 2015 hasn't seen a mega blockbuster yet, and it seems that next month is not likely to bring a lot of business to Bollywood either. At the moment, March is supposed to have only one big release in Anushka Sharma's maiden production venture, "NH10".

While some blame the ICC Cricket World Cup for the relatively dry spell, others point to the school exams as the reason.

However, those involved in the cinema business had anticipated this scenario, and feel that even if one film does reasonably well, things will take a positive turn for them. Kamal

Gianchandani, CEO, PVR Cinemas, says March has always been a weak month because of the exams. "But a fate of a film can be decided only by the audience after it releases," he says, adding "Like last year, 'Queen' released in March and did very well."

While cinema owners are looking at applying several permutations and combinations to make sure that losses are minimised, few feel that a low-release month gives an opportunity to owners to get work done in the cinema halls without any disturbance to movie-goers.

Source: **Internet**

