

WHAT'S ON

Concert
Concert for the Burned
 Bands: Arbovirus, Powesurge, Owned + more
 Venue: National Library Auditorium
 Date: Mar 14
 Time: 11am-9pm

Solo painting exhibition
 Artist: Laila Anjuman Ara
 Title: Joy of Nature
 Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
 Date: Feb 27-March 9
 Time: 3pm-9pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 Artist: Shiro Sadoshima
 Venue: Zainul Gallery-2, FFA, DU
 Date: Mar 2-7
 Time: 12pm-8pm

Street Theatre Festival
 Organiser: Bangladesh Street Theatre Council
 Venue: Shaheed Minar
 Date: Mar 1-7
 Time: 5pm

ITI Theatre Fest
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
 Date: March 13-21
 Time: 7pm

Prangonemor Theatre Fest
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
 Date: March 6-12
 Time: 7pm

THE WEEKENDER

MIR SABBIR

The Family Man

A CORRESPONDENT

Renowned actor-director Mir Sabbir usually has a lot on his plate, but that doesn't stop him from being a loving father and a genuine family man. In a recent conversation, the artiste shared his weekend routine with The Daily Star.

What do you usually do during your weekends?

Sabbir: I do not commit to any shooting on Friday; for me, it is a family day. I take my family out, watch movies with them, read books, play with my sons and pretty much anything that my wife and sons are up for.

What do you enjoy most, of all these activities?

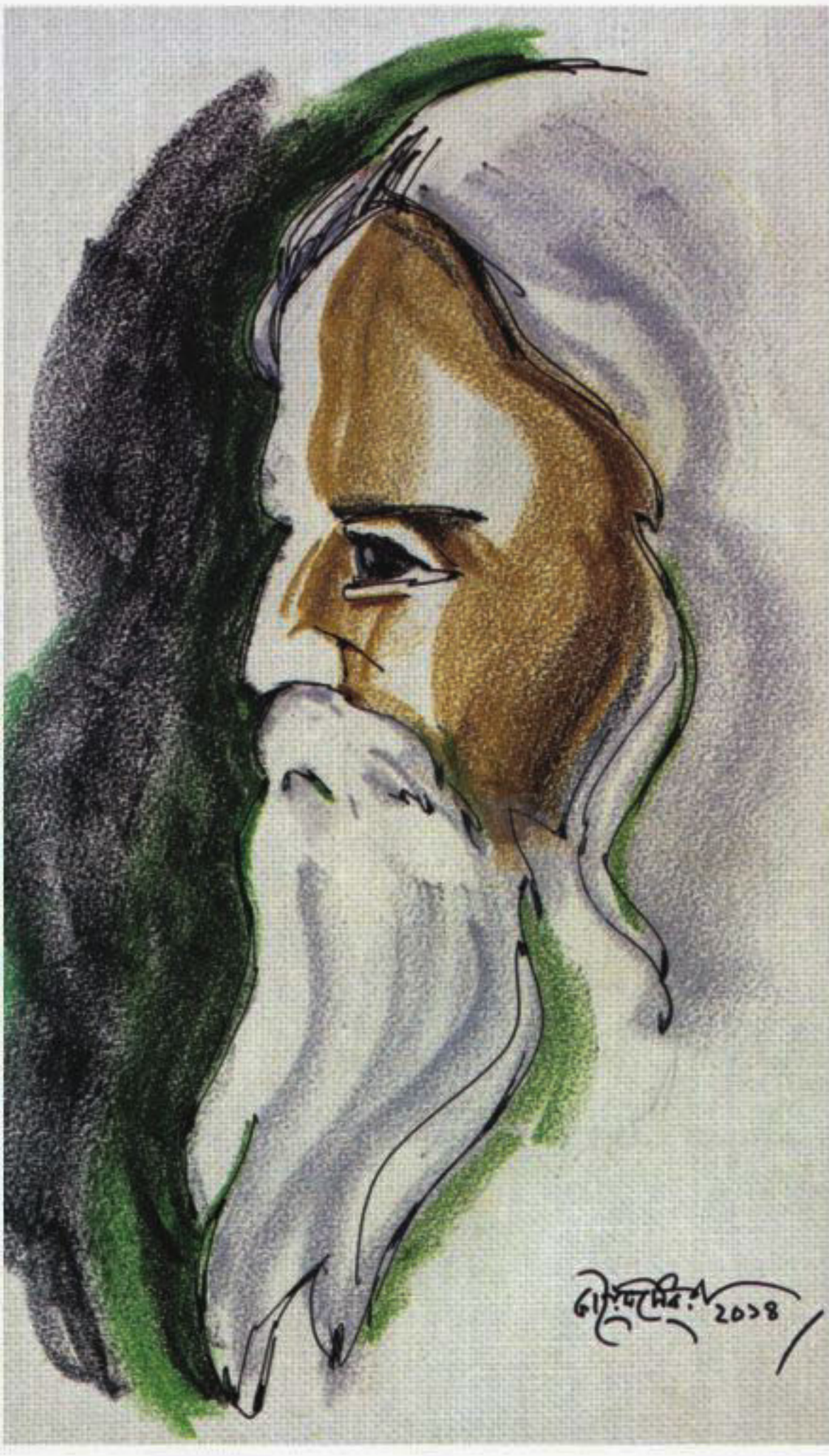
Sabbir: I love reading books and watching movies. There is no specific category for what to read or watch, though.

What is the best thing that has happened to you lately?

Sabbir: My son -- who is now a year old. Everything is interesting and new whenever I am around him.



PHOTO: ATL AAKASH



Qayyum Chowdhury's last signature work

Portraits of great personalities under spotlight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC), Dhaka brought out an innovative table calendar for the year 2015, of which each month focuses on portraits of a great personality -- from politicians, litterateurs, poets, artist, mystic bard, classical musician and religious and social reformers of both Bangladesh and India.

Five renowned Bangladeshi artists -- Qayyum Chowdhury, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Jamal Ahmed, Ranjit Das and Kamaluddin portrayed the portraits for the calendar.

Celebrated artist Qayyum Chowdhury depicted visages of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Nobel Laureate Poet Rabindranath Tagore on the calendar. The portrait of Tagore was the last signature work by late artist Qayyum Chowdhury, who breathed his last on November 30 at the Combined Military Hospital followed by a stroke on the stage of Bengal Classical Music Festival 2014.

Artist Jamal Ahmed painted the portraits of Kazi Nazrul Islam, Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin and legendary classical musician Baba Ustad Allauddin Khan, while Kamaluddin painted former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Michael Madhusudan Dutt and Poet Jibananda Das.

Ranjit Das' works of Swami Vivekananda, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar and Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das have also been placed for the calendar. Eminent artist Samarjit Roy Chowdhury has also done a portrait of mystic bard Fakir Lalon Shah.



IT'S TRUE!

Zahir Raihan directed one of the most feted Bangla movies, "Jibon Theke Neyo", featuring Khan Ataur Rahman, Rowshan Jamil, Anwar Hossain, Razzaque, and Suchanda. Raihan made a bold step with the movie by narrating the contemporary political turmoil in the then East Pakistan. The mass upsurge of 1969 was brilliantly captured in the movie by the ace filmmaker. The movie is also special for another reason: the National Anthem of Bangladesh, "Amar Shonar Bangla" was played for the first time in a Bangla movie and the song ignited the sense of Bangalee nationalism among the masses.

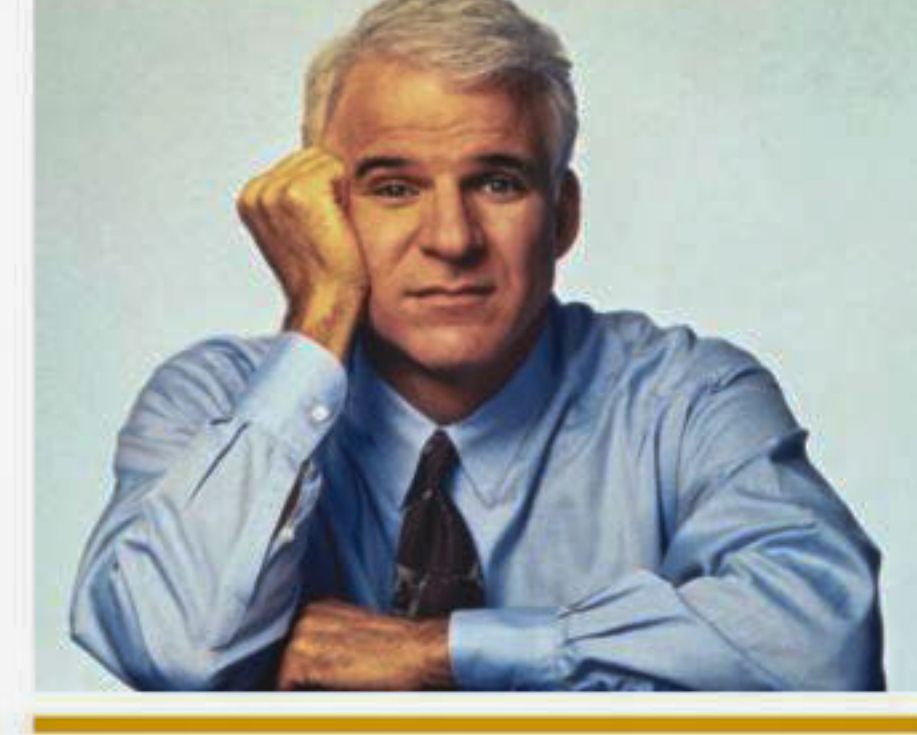
NEWS bytes

Steve Martin to star in Ang Lee's next

Steve Martin is joining the cast of the Ang Lee-directed "Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk" for TriStar. Martin will join newcomer Joe Alwyn, with Garrett Hedlund in line for another key role. The adaptation of the Ben Fountain novel starts shooting in April.

In the film, Bravo Company, and 19-year-old Private Billy Lynn, survives a harrowing Iraq battle that is captured by news cameras. They are brought home by the US administration for a promotional tour, culminating at the spectacular halftime show of a Thanksgiving Day football game, all while facing an imminent return to the war.

Source: Deadline



RICHI SOLAIMAN on a roll

A CORRESPONDENT

Popular actress Richi Solaiman forayed into production eight years ago with her production house Nilanjona. Since then, the actress has been simultaneously focusing on both acting and production.

The actress recently finished shooting for two new single-episode TV plays: "Nilkontho Pakhir Palok" and "Uttomer Pocket-e Suchitra". The first casts Richi against Rownak Hasan, who is also the director of the play. In the latter, she will be seen with Apurbo. Meanwhile two drama serials -- "Milar Baranda" and "Palta Haowa" -- in which Richi plays lead roles -- are set to go on air soon. Richi has also featured in a TVC for a footwear company.

Richi's production house Nilanjona is bringing a new drama serial titled "Jokhon Kokhono" to viewers. Written by Sohan Khan, the drama serial will be directed by Rohomotullah Tuhin.

Asked why she is not visible any more in her own productions, Richi said, "It is difficult to work simultaneously as an actor and producer for a production. That's why I prefer working under other producers where I can work freely."

The cast for the new play will be selected soon, informed the actress-turned producer. The shooting for "Jokhon Kokhono" begins this month.



I want to make good films

... SA Haque Alik

SAURAV DEY

SA Haque Alik began his journey as a television direction in the late 1990s. Then Alik used to be a theatre actor who never thought of becoming a filmmaker. But fate has something else written for him that has brought him success as both television director and filmmaker. His debut film, "Hridoyer Kotha", featuring Riaz and Purnima brought him huge success as a director, followed by his second hit "Akash Chhowa Bhalobasha". In a recent conversation, he talked about his films and many more. Excerpts:

What are your current projects?

Alik: Shooting is running for my third film "Ek Prithibir Prem" starring Irin and Asif in the lead roles. The cast also includes senior artistes ATM Shamsuzzaman, Afzal Sharif, Abul Hayat, Sharmili Ahmed and others. Also my fourth film "Aro Bhalobashbo Tomay" is being shot currently.

Tell us something about the film.

Alik: I wrote the screenplay for "Ek Prithibir Prem". It is a love story which also depicts the gradually loosening family bonds. The film has good music; Habib, Hridoy Khan, Porshi, Kumar Biswajit and Milon Mahmud have lent their voices in the film. I haven't yet fixed the date of its release since I don't prefer working under a certain time limit. I will finish the film first and then decide a date for its release as it allows me to work with precision.

How would you differentiate film and TV drama?

Alik: You have to pay to watch a film while a television drama is free to watch on any channel. When the audience buys ticket to watch a film they will expect to see something that reflects their tastes. Also making a film needs single-minded attention.

Dreams you cherish as a director?

Alik: I want the audience to remember me after my death which is the greatest award for a filmmaker. I became a filmmaker for the love of film, and want to make good films.

Any word for upcoming directors?

Alik: Film is team work; every unit has a crucial role to play. A good film requires collective efforts from the director, producers, actors, production unit, composers, musicians and all concerned people. Also you have to fix target audience and know their pulse. What the audience wants to see is more important than what you want them to see.

