

WHAT'S ON

Group art Exhibition
Jatra – by contemporary Bangladeshi women artists
 Venue: Gallery Twenty One
 Date: Mar 28-Apr 12; Time: 12 to 8pm

Solo painting exhibition
Living in Inferno
 Artists: Krishna Chattopadhyay
 Venue: Shilpangan Gallery
 Date: March 14-28

Group art exhibition
The Sweet Taste of Liberty
 Venue: Athena Gallery of fine arts
 Date: March 28 to 20 April
 Time: 5pm

German/Bangla Movie Night
Film: Kebab Connection
 Venue: Goethe Institut Dhaka
 Date: March 29
 Time: 6pm-8pm

Qayyum Chowdhury: Selected illustrations
 Organiser: Bengal foundation
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
 Date: Mar 10-Apr 4
 Time: 12pm-8pm

Photography Exhibition
Bangladesh in Frames VII
 Venue: Drik Gallery
 Date: March 26-March 30
 Time: 3pm-8pm

NEWS bytes

SOAD ready to hit the studios



According to bassist Shavo Odadjian, System of a Down have already penned some new songs and "there's a very good chance" that the experimental metal quartet will head into the studio soon.

For a few years now, certain members of System of a Down have been leading the charge for a new album. Positive signs rolled into 2015, with vocalist Serj Tankian speaking about possible album plans. "There has been talk [of a new album], and we are going to play this tour, come back and we're going to see where we are," Tankian said.

Madcap Music Review posted a video where the update from Shavo came. "I don't have a date. We've written some songs. We're keeping it to ourselves," he said.

As for System of a Down's confirmed 2015 plans, the band has a number of dates scheduled throughout the world.

Source: Loudwire

Bhabna flies to Florida with 'Chitrangada'

A CORRESPONDENT

Despite her popularity as an actress, Ashna Habib Bhabna also has another love-- the classical dance form of Bharatnatyam. The actress-dancer will present her dance drama Rabindranath Tagore's "Chitrangada" in Florida, USA April 4- 5. She flew to Florida on an invitation from the Bangladesh Foundation of Florida to participate in "4th North America Tagore Conference".

About her first USA tour, an elated Bhabna said, "I am travelling to Florida for the first time. It was my dream to showcase the production on a prestigious platform outside the country."



FERDOUSI RAHMAN

"At the back of all literature stretches the unmapped and immeasurable world of oral tradition," says Professor GH Gerould, the famous folklorist of the contemporary world.

Through the years the rivers that criss-cross Bengal has rippled to the unforgettable Bhatiali and Sari folk songs of the boatmen.

Bhawaiya or the 'cartman's song' are sung in northern Bangladesh.

There, the dusty, rugged, muddy roads take the place of rivers; bullock carts replace boats, and Bhawaiya and Chatka take the place of Bhatiali. Then we have Bichhedi or the songs of separation. There is a wide spectrum of mystic songs composed by great writers like Hason Raja and Lalon Shah which are very popular throughout the country. The spirituality of Bangladeshis is outpoured in Marfati and Murshidi songs.

Baul songs too belong to the folk music tradition. There are also Jari

Folk Songs of Bangladesh

A tradition in danger of being lost

Bangladesh is known as a land of music. The folk music of Bangladesh, in particular, is deeply connected with the psyche of the country and resonates through the villages of Bengal.

gaan, Kobi gaan, and Pala gaan, which keep the listeners and audience spell-bound for nights together in Bengal villages.

Bangladeshi marriages ring to the popular Biyer gaan.

Late legend Abbasuddin Ahmed, the king of folk songs -- collected these songs, brought them to Calcutta and convinced HMV to record them, about 60 years ago. The folk songs that had remained the preserve of villages so far became a hit in the cities.

There was a time during the 1950s and 1960s when folk music festivals were held every year in Dhaka for several days during winter, and original and authentic folk songs were presented by the singers who came from different parts of the country.

Unfortunately, we haven't had the pleasure of listening to such original singers for the last 25 years or more, because of the distortion of the original folk songs. Folk singers have naturally fallen on hard days while folk songs are sidelined by the electronic media and

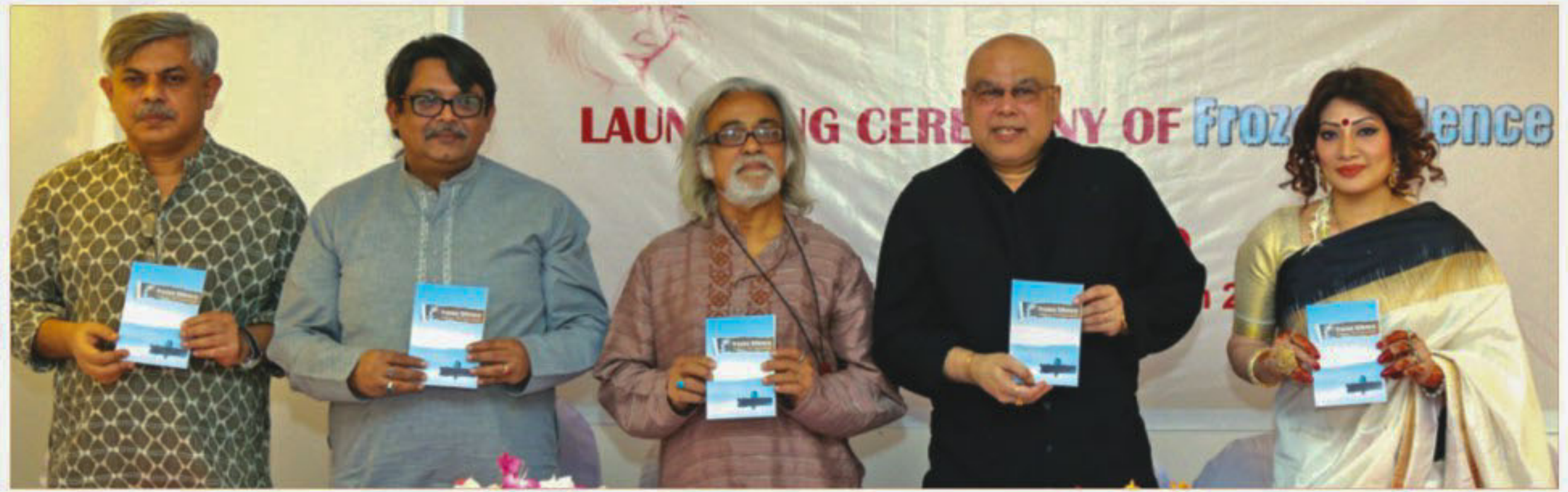
rarely presented on prime time.

Our folk instruments like sarinda, khamak, and dhol are becoming obsolete, and we hardly find any sarinda or khamak players.

I have been to many parts of the world as a member of cultural delegations and ironically at every concert, it was folk songs that won the most hearts. I have also noticed that there are a lot of similarities in folk songs of most countries. For instance, Tibetan folk songs and the folk songs of Southern China are greatly similar to our Bhawaiya songs.

My father, the late Abbasuddin Ahmed -- said in a speech at an international folk music festival: "Because all village people are simple, because they think simply, because their songs are simple, because their subject matter is simple, they talk of their simple joys and sorrows, and because people, the tune, the subject matter is simple - all folk songs of the world are alike."

The writer is an eminent singer.



The launching ceremony of the first poetry book by Labonno, titled "Frozen Silence" was held recently in the capital. The publication ceremony, held at Drik Gallery, was attended by a number of distinguished guests including popular writer Anisul Hoque, photographer Chanchal Mahmood, noted cinematographer Anwar Hossain, Press Minister of Bangladesh High Commission in London Nadeem Quadir, and editor of Bangladesh Protidin, Nayeem Nizam.

Daily Fright Night on Gtv

A CORRESPONDENT

Horror mega serial "Daily Fright Night" will go on air on Gtv from midnight. Each episode of the show features dramatised horror stories. The screenplay is written by Shakib Hasan Badhon while the production is directed by Tanim Rahman Ongshu.

Lutfar Rahman George, Tanvin Sweetey, Mishu Sabbir, Swagota, Selim Sheikh, Shyamol Maola, Aditi Mahmud, Mou, Shaon Haq and others are in the cast.

The show will air every Friday to Thursday.



PHOTO: SAURAV DEY

IT'S TRUE!

Kate Winslet's first entry point into the acting world came in the form of a commercial for Sugar Puffs at the age of 11. She's had extensive acting training as Winslet began taking acting lessons at age 11 and she then went to a performing arts high school. Her big break came when she was cast as an obsessive adolescent in "Heavenly Creatures" just at the age of 17. After she was cast as Rose DeWitt Bukater in "Titanic", she had roses sent to director James Cameron for casting her. Kate holds the distinction of being the youngest actor ever honored with four Academy Award nominations. She won her first at the age of 29.



HARIZUPIA releases today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Historical feature film "Harizupia", about an anthropologist caught up in a war, releases in the country today. Golam Mostafa Shimul has written and directed the film, produced by Impress Telefilm.

Harizupia is an ancient Sadri word that means "the place of a mass-killing". The film, set in 1971, sees an anthropologist finding some terra cotta. His drive for discovery unfolds new truths in front of him, when a philosopher and a linguist join him in his quest.

The film casts Quazi Razu, Riaz Mahmud, Khairul Alam Shobuj, Mahmudul Islam Mithu, Bithi, sushma Soma, Sabbir and others.

TV WATCH



"Gaaney Gaaney Deshe Deshe" on Banglavision

A CORRESPONDENT

Popular singers Abida Sultana and Linu Billah will be tonight's guests on "Gaaney Gaaney Deshe Deshe". To be aired on Banglavision at 9:05pm, the show features songs from different countries apart from Bangla songs. The programme, hosted by Syed Abdul Hadi, is produced by Nahid Ahmed Biplab.

