

WHAT'S ON

Borshoboron 1422
Organiser: Chayanaut
Venue: Ramna Botomul, Dhaka
Date: April 14
Time: 6am

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Destination & Departure
Artist: Professor Mousumi Khatun
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara
Date: Apr 11-21; Time: 11am-8pm

Mongol Shobhajatra
Venue: Charukala, Dhaka
University
Date: April 14
Time: 9am

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

Syed Badruddin Hossain Memorial Theatre Fest
Organiser: Padatik Natya Sangsad (PNS)
Venue: National & Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: April 7-11; Time: 7pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Alamgir Haque
Title: Sounds and Smells of Nature
Venue: Gallery Chitra, H-4, Rd-6, Dharmadadi
Date: Apr 3-12
Time: 10am-8pm

Group Art Exhibition
Ring O Raspi Kabbo
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Mar 28-Apr 11
Time: 11am-8pm

RUNA laila A star is BORN



SHAHNOOR WAHID
I was in Karachi, Pakistan in 1966 when Runa Laila first appeared in the music horizon, taking the listeners by storm with her song, "Unki nazrosey mohabbatka jo paigham mila....". The lilting romantic song immediately became a chartbuster and made Runa a celebrity overnight. The young but strong voice, well-trained in classical songs, lent the required passion to make the songs extremely popular all over Pakistan. The freshness of her voice was the reason behind this. There was no stopping for Runa after that song. She went onto sing many more songs in Urdu films under the direction of the maestros of Lahore filmdom.

Runa Laila's voice came as a breath of fresh air to the music lovers in Pakistan in the late sixties. But to get a footing in Lahore was not an easy feat as two stalwarts of the time, Noor Jahan and Mala dominated the stage. When young Bengali boys of Lahore and Karachi came to know that Runa was a Bengali girl from East Pakistan, they fell in love with her en masse and longed to meet her in real life. But it was difficult those days and as a result Runa unknowingly broke many hearts. But the young Bengali did not stop listening to her songs. Those who lived in Karachi and Lahore those days took extreme pride in telling their Pakistani friends that Runa Laila was a Bengali artist who sang with an immaculate Urdu accent. In the Bengali household her songs used to be played in every party and she remained the main topic of discussion. But this remains to be said even the Pakistani audience loved her equally and appreciated Runa Laila's voice quality and singing style. They had a unanimous opinion that she would be a great singer one day. So a young Runa Laila had already won the hearts of millions of Pakistanis with only a few songs. Next, after 74 it was for the rest of the subcontinent to discover her wondrously melodious voice.



REFLECTING ON RUNA

Contemporaries share thoughts on the icon's 50 years in melody



STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Runa Laila, an iconic figure not only in Bangla music but the musical scene of South Asia, celebrates the Golden Jubilee of her career with a concert today at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, also featuring Indian playback singer KK and Pakistan-based actor-singer Faouad Khan. Marking her glorious landmark, her contemporaries in the music scene shared their views on her work and career with The Daily Star.

Ferdousi Rahman, singer
I was a regular performing artist

when Runa was just a blooming flower; we have performed on the same stage many times, and throughout the decades, she has blossomed into a beautiful flower. When she decided to come back to Bangladesh, I was very happy; some people were perhaps not, but I think they also realised eventually what an asset she is to Bangla music. She has left her mark beyond the boundaries of this country -- something not many artists have been able to do. As a listener, I am very proud of her, and I hope and pray to Allah that she continues to sing beautifully for years to come.

Sheikh Sadi Khan, composer
The reason why Runa Laila became who she is today, and served our music industry for so

long, is because she came prepared; her foundation was strong so she could build on it. Her training allowed her to sing various types of songs, and express herself through it. She has worked with some of the greatest musicians of this part of the world, which was an invaluable experience for her. She is an incredible musical talent, and has the rare quality to pick up songs on the spot and express the right emotions in it. Today's singers have a great role model in her.

Alauddin Ali, composer
I was fortunate to have worked with an artist of such international repute. I have worked with Runa Laila for a long time; we worked for films and recorded from HMV. Also we received

accolades from Kolkata along with other great artists like Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Salil Chowdhury and Bhupen Hazarika. It always felt great to be around a great singer like her. I learned many things from her. She is an inspiration to many.

Anup Bhattacharya, singer-composer
I have always lamented the fact that we could never utilise an artiste of Runa Laila's stature to the full potential. Maybe it was our limitations, maybe something else; I don't know. The biggest hits of hers that you hear today are not all songs of her level. She is an artiste of great heights, who has an immense range and diversity. She has rightly left her impression all over this subconti-

nent, and deserves great honours.

Emon Saha, composer
I have had the opportunity to work with Runa apa for a long time, as I used to be keyboardist of her band during the initial part of my career. Despite being the legendary singer that she is, Runa apa has always been very supportive and I got to learn a lot of things from her. I learned from her that being a good human being is the first prerequisite for being a good artiste. I also did music direction for her solo album, and collaborated with her in films. She is very close to her co-artists. I am so happy that Runa apa is celebrating 50 years of singing. I wish she continues singing for many more years to come.

THE WEEKENDER "I can't live without music"...Liza

SHAH ALAM SHAZU
Acclaimed singer Liza has never looked back since she won the Close Up 1 talent hunt. Singing is her forte but she has also emceed programmes. Liza recently fielded some questions posed by The Daily Star:

What is your first thought when you wake up in the morning?
Liza: I wish I could sleep some more. Do you like flowers?

Liza: Yes, I want more flower pots at my home.
What is your greatest fear?
Liza: Ghosts.
What would you do if you could assume superpowers?
Liza: Beautifully Bangladesh. What attracts you

the most -- the sea, mountains or forests?
Liza: Forests.
What most irritates you about Dhaka?
Liza: The wild traffic and booming population.
What do you usually do when you get angry?
Liza: I shout out loudly, and then stay mum till I cool off.
How do you react to astrological predictions in magazines or papers?
Liza: I am really interested in reading them. It lights up my day even though half of it doesn't always take place.
How do you react when you see the adulation of your fans?
Liza: Very positively.
What do you miss the most if you leave it at home when you go out?
Liza: My mobile phone.
Do you have a fear of heights?
Liza: Not really.
You can't survive without...?
Liza: Music.
What would you do if you encountered a fairy?
Liza: I would befriend him/her.



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADIP RUPON

IT'S TRUE!



Iconic actor-martial artist Jackie Chan is also a prominent singer. Chan had vocal lessons whilst at the Peking Opera School in his childhood, began producing records professionally in the 1980s and has gone on to become a successful singer in Hong Kong and Asia. He has released 20 albums since 1984 and has performed vocals in Cantonese, Mandarin, Japanese, Taiwanese and English. He often sings the theme songs of his films, which play over the closing credits.

Bonnya Mirza in debut TVC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Despite Bonnya Mirza's popularity and success in both theatre and television, the actress had never done a television commercial. The actress recently did a commercial for telecom operator Robi, and it is going on air on all television channels.

About that TVC, Bonnya said, "It was my first work in a commercial. I had to practice a lot to prepare myself for it. Without this TVC, I wouldn't have known that Piplu (admaker Piplu R Khan) is such a talented director."

Meanwhile, Bonnya is passing busy times in drama series. She is working in nearly half dozen TV serials, four of which are already going on air on different channels.

In addition, she has also started working in a yet-untitled serial.



Chhuye Dile Mon hits screens today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
New Dhallywood film "Chhuye Dile Mon" is releasing in theatres across the country today. Popular actors Arifin Shuvo and Momo paired up for the first time in this film, produced by Dhwooni Chitra and Monforing. The film also casts Iresh Zaker in a key role.

About the film, Shuvo said, "It's a good story revolving around love and romance." Momo said "I believe the audience will go to cinema halls to watch the film and they will love it."

The film, presented by Fair & Lovely, is directed by Shihab Shahin.

A celebration of the melody man

AR Rahman documentary premiered

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi
His mother sold all her jewelry to buy him the equipment in a music studio. He made British composer Andrew Lloyd Webber take off his shoes while recording of Bollywood musical "Bollywood Dreams" in a studio in London.

These, and many other vignettes of double Oscar-winning composer AR Rahman's personal life came out in public domain when director Umesh Aggarwal's documentary "Jai Ho" based on the career of the 'Mozart of Madras' had its India premiere on Tuesday night, in



front of a packed audience of music lovers from not only the national capital, but all of the country.

The film celebrates Rahman's achievements through his two-decade career, the evolution of his style of music, and what it meant to Indian film industry.

It is interwoven with Rahman's personal life story -- the struggle after his father's death, the day his mother sold all her jewelry to buy him studio equipment, ideas of spirituality and how Rahman creates music.

The film features British director Danny Boyle, director of multiple Oscar-winning film "Slumdog Millionaire", his compatriot-composer Andrew Lloyd Webber, directors Shekhar Kapoor, Mani Ratnam (whose film "Roja" ushered Rahman into film music 23 years ago), Subhash Ghai, lyricist Gulzar and singer Alka Yagnik, among others, talking about Rahman. Considered one of the world's most influential people by Time magazine, the music maestro's work includes over 120 film scores worldwide.

In an interesting piece of information, Ghai says Rahman is so "eccentric" at times, "he will go the bathroom and disappear for two hours."

Most importantly, the documentary gets Rahman himself to talk, for which director Aggarwal says he had to wait for six months.

A standing ovation by the audience marked the end of the 60-minute documentary, which was followed by a question-answer session featuring Rahman and the film's director with the audience.

Rahman was also requested by the audience to sing a song but time constraints did not permit it.

NEWS bytes

Hilary Duff releases new single



Hilary Duff returned to the airwaves this week on Monday, with a hot new single. The 27-year old singer debuted "Sparks" as her first new song of 2015, after taking a bit of a break from her upcoming fifth studio album. The "Why Not" singer first introduced the project in July 2014 with the release of the single "Chasing the Sun", but paused the album after releasing the second single "All About You" in August.

The former child star is back at it with "Sparks", which has been featured in promos for her new TV Land show "Younger" with Sutton Foster and Debi Mazar. The clubby track opens with a whistled melody before Duff joins in. The steamy lyrics are a change of tone for Duff, who split from her husband Mike Comrie in 2014 after nearly four years together.

Duff is expected to release her new album "This Heart" in the coming months. Originally slated for an October 2014 debut, the record will be the singer's first in more than eight years.

Source: US Weekly

CELEBRATING LIFE 2015

Theme: Celebrating the HERITAGE of Bangladesh

Celebrating the Heritage of Bangladesh

Express yourself and share your

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Deadline : 30 July 2015

Send your application before
30 July 2015
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