



Fey and Poheler open SNL

For the first time in recent weeks, "Saturday Night Live" relied on its own cast and hosts to open a show, rather than surprise cameos.

Hosts Tina Fey and Amy Poehler reprised their old impressions of Sarah Palin and Hillary Clinton, respectively, in a program that made the most of the cast and avoided what has been a recurring technique in recent weeks, when "surprise" guest



opening moments. Just last week, Will Ferrell, an alumni of the program like Fey and Poheler, turned up in the show's opening moments to revive his famous impression of George W Bush. In the week prior, Michael Meyers, another famous former cast member, made an appearance during the host's monologue.

Tina Fey and Amy Poehler hosted the programme and used their monologue to give subtle nods to their new movie, "Sisters", and sang a funny tune about Christmas that showed off their light and dark sides.

Source: Variety



NATURE AT GALLERY TWENTY ONE

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Simeen Hussain Rimi's solo photography exhibition "Nature" is running at Gallery Twenty One at Dhanmondi in the city. The exhibit, the first solo by Simeen, who is also a Member of Parliament, was inaugurated on Saturday evening. Rokia Afzal Rahman, former advisor to the Caretaker Government inaugurated the exhibit. Eminent artists Monirul Islam and Rokeya Sultana were also present at the inauguration ceremony.

The featured photographs portray nature in all its diversity. The photographs of trees, birds and hills take on a new dimension.

"Nature", featuring 114 photographs, will remain open from 12pm-8pm every day till January 2.





Shilpacharya's birth anniversary celebrated in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Myimensingh

Children sketched the life and works of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, marking the 101st birth anniversary celebrations of the master painter, at Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala (art gallery) on Friday.

The art gallery, with support from Bangladesh National Museum, organised the programme.

Zainul Abedin was born on December 29, 1914 in Mymensingh, and studied at Mymensingh Mritunjoy School.

The students of Zainul Shishu Charupith, an art school named after the master artist, took part in the competition in five groups.

Dr Bijoy Krishna Banik, deputy keeper of the art gallery



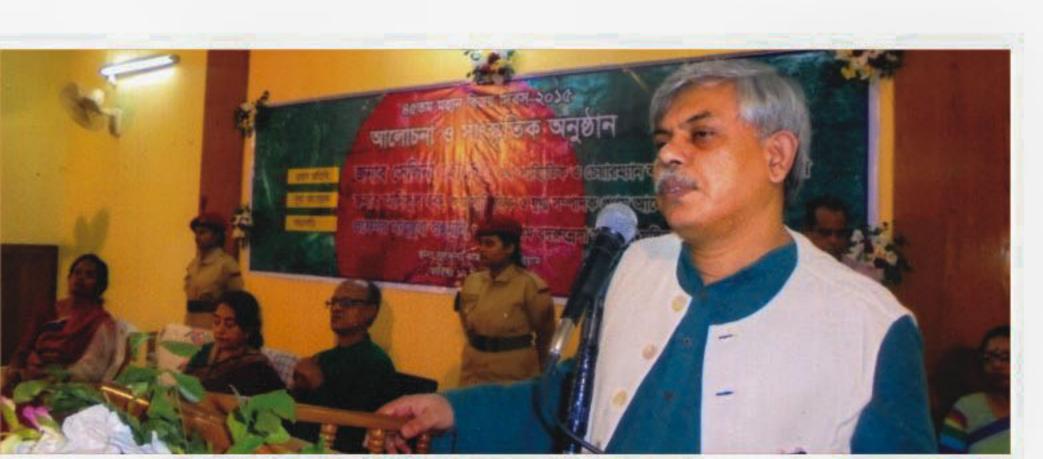
inaugurated the competition as chief guest. Teachers of Charupath Badal Chakraborty, Neel Komol Roy and Didarul Hossain Limon were present at the inaugural session, among others.

Urging young talents to be devoted to Shilpacharya and to follow his ideals and patriotic spirit, the speakers said Shilpacharya was the pioneer of the Bangladeshi modern art movement.

Shilpacharya used art to express his views on a range of subjects, focusing primarily on scenes of rural Bangladesh, as well as the Bengal famine of 1943 and War of Liberation of 1971, encouraging people to fight against oppression, repression and deprivation, said speakers.

The master painter also worked tirelessly to encourage folk art in Bangladesh, they added.

The speakers also discussed how Zainul helped to found the Government Institute of Arts and Crafts, now the Faculty of Fine Arts under Dhaka University.



Marking Victory Day, Begum Badrunnesa Government Girls' College arranged a discussion and essay writing competition on December 17. Noted litterateur Anisul Haq attended the discussion as the chief discussant. Professor Mahbuba Rahman, Principal of the college presided over the programme.

TV WATCH GRANDMASTER on Channel 9

A CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Grandmaster" will air on Channel 9 tonight at 10:15pm. Written by Shahjahan Sourav and directed by Dipangkar Dipon, the serial is about a politician and his family members who aspire to

gain fame in the world of politics. "Grandmaster" has a heavyweight cast including Raisul Islam Asad, Syed Hasan Imam, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Tarin, Kalyan, Hasin Rowshan, Shahed Ali and Kazi Ujjal.



"URBAN HOURS 2" held at Curzon Hall



A CORRESPONDENT

Young artists' collective Back Art organised the second season of "Urban Hours", a daylong public art event, at Dhaka University's Curzon Hall. Around 20 visual artistes, including one from India and one from Brazil, took part in the site-specific project from 11 am to 6pm. The exhibits included installations, performances and videos, giving the viewers an opportunity to introspect on a juxtaposition of the unplanned urbanization and the heritage of Dhaka.

Back Art had earlier held the first season of "Urban Hours" at the Rose Garden in Gopibag last year. Their other initiatives include "Songlaap", a performance art event at Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University; "Native Myth", a public art event on collective mythology of Bangladesh at Ichakhali, Chandpur and an international exhibition at Salina Art Center in USA, all held this year.



Sonam Kapoor impresses in gripping "Neerja" trailer

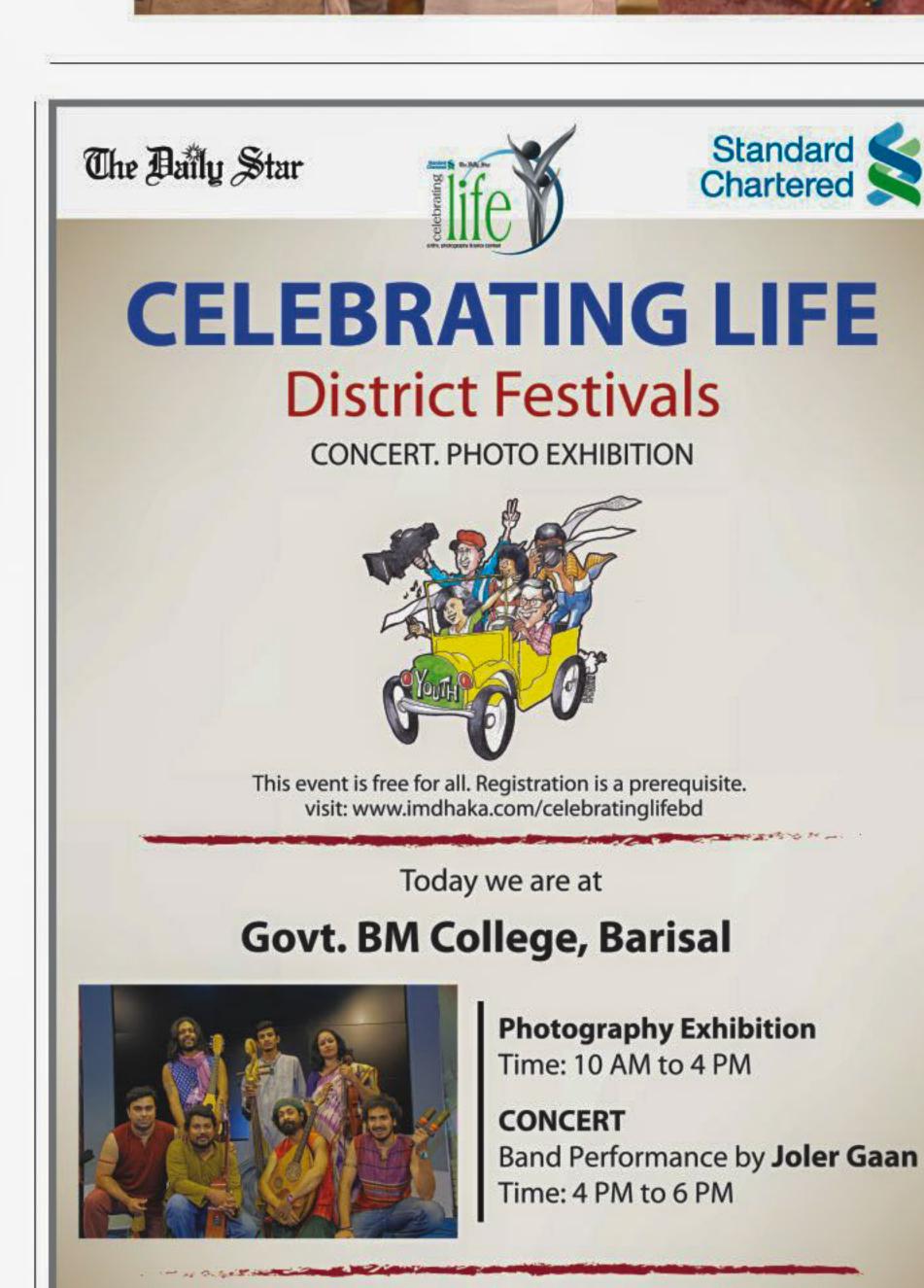
The first intense trailer of "Neerja" is out, and Sonam Kapoor shines in a character not many would associate with her. Based on the 1986 hijacking of New Yorkbound Pan Am Flight 73 in Karachi by heavily-armed terrorists, the film is a biopic on Indian flight attendant, Neerja Bhanot, who was murdered while trying to save the lives of the passengers of the ill-fated flight. She saved the lives of 359 people at her own expense, and was posthumously awarded the Ashok Chakra, India's highest civilian award for bravery - the youngest to receive the honours. She was also honoured by Pakistan and USA for

her gallantry.

Sonam brings out the vulnerability and strength of a 23-yearold woman caught in a bind in the nearly two-and-a-halfminute trailer. Shabana Azmi also makes an impression in the role of Neerja's mother, while Shekhar Ravjiani, one half of the famous Bollywood music director duo Vishal-Shekhar also makes his Bollywood debut with the film.

Directed by admaker Ram Madhvani and produced by Fox Star Studios, "Neerja" hits theatres on Februay 19 next year.

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