

WHAT'S ON

Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2016
 Organiser: Bangla Academy
 Venue: Bangla Academy premises & Suhrawardi Udyan
 Date: February 1-29
 Time: 3-8pm & 11am-8pm (Fri & Sat)

Group Painting Exhibition
 Title: Taste of Light and Darkness-2
 Venue: La Galerie, AFD, Dhanmondi
 Date: Feb 26-Mar 8
 Time: 3pm-9pm

Musical Soiree
 An Evening of Rabindra Sangeet
 Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Gulshan-1
 Artists: Shirsendu Roy and Arena Mukherjee
 Date: Feb 27; Time: 6pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Unknown Spirit
 Artist: Esperanza Romero (Spain)
 Venue: Gallery Cosmos, H-115, Lane-6, New DOHS, Mohakhali
 Date: February 20-29
 Time: 12-8pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: Of a Poetic Vision of Life
 Artist: Ranjit Das
 Venue: Shilpangan
 Date: February 26-March 12
 Time: 12pm-8pm

NEWS bytes

Judy Greer to star in workplace comedy

Judy Greer has been tapped to star in an untitled workplace comedy pilot from Fox that hails from writer Laura Steinel. The comedy will center around Jane (Greer), who is stuck between managing her human resources department as well as the new CEO, who harbors big ambitions for the New Jersey plastics plant.



The comedy is Greer's latest small-screen gig; her FX series "Married" was cancelled after two seasons. She's also had smaller TV and film roles on "Mom", "Mad Love", "Love & Money", "Miss Guided", Marvel's "Ant-Man" and "Jurassic World".

Greer is the latest female star to topline a Fox pilot this season, joining the likes of Niecy Nash in buddy cop comedy "The Enforcers" and Kylie Bunbury, who will play a female baseball player in the network's drama project "Pitch".

Source: Variety

Poetic vision in lines and colours

Ranjit Das' solo exhibit at Shilpangan

SHARMILLIE RAHMAN

Ranjit Das, draws a sparse vista at each turn of his array of artworks, more like pages of a book one is invited to flip through. Each of them inscribed with a chapter of a story, simultaneously ephemeral and condensed in the capsule of a moment from one picture frame after the other, each edition forging a part of the whole.

The current oeuvre by Ranjit Das, titled "Of a Poetic Vision of Life" now on at Shilpangan Gallery in the capital, is an exposition in semi-abstract figural studies. He creates a world unto itself, caught as it is in the passage between the present and the past and a wistful future. The rhythm of time, like musical registers, find its resonance in the poetic confluence on the picture plane of space and form, of light and shade, a rhythm invigorated by spurious interception of colours. Bare and free of experimental fuss, the images strike a curious balance between the apparent and what remains 'on the sly', thus, clueing one into searching for more than what meets the eyes.

In a number of works, the lines and contours, sweeping strokes, blotches and splashes of wash assume the prerogative of designing an artistic realm of



solitary moments awash with a profound sense of longing. The figures appear desolate, melancholic, like flotsam entities in a dream unmoored from a 'wakeful' reality, hovering in the pre-

down hours of coming into one's own, becoming flesh and blood, figures without faces, yet strung together in the common thread of humanity. The virtues and techniques of watercolour

serve virtuously to bring this retinue of 'studies in form' into view, ever shifting in the space of an overlap of hope and despair.

At times in black and white, at others partly stained in 'livid' colours, the shapes and contours recall images rooted in the primal memory of a collective belonging, of who one were and wish to be. One muses at the not-too-remote refraction of images threaded into a nakshi kantha onto the scroll-like expanse of a drawing populated by men, women, children and animals alike in an evocation of the quintessence of 'living', drawn as they are from the recesses of a cultural psyche; all of which infusing predictably into the synecdochal figure of the bird in the very foreground. Then it dawns on one that it is the dark blotches, seething and spawning between the figures surrogating an 'expected' backdrop that draws one's attention as they imbue the visual plane with the poignancy and urgency of the unexpected, of the yet to be seen and known for that matter. The pattern repeats in quite a few of the other works.

The exhibit runs till March 12.

The writer is a fiction writer & executive editor of Depart Art Magazine.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

PAPON performs in Dhaka

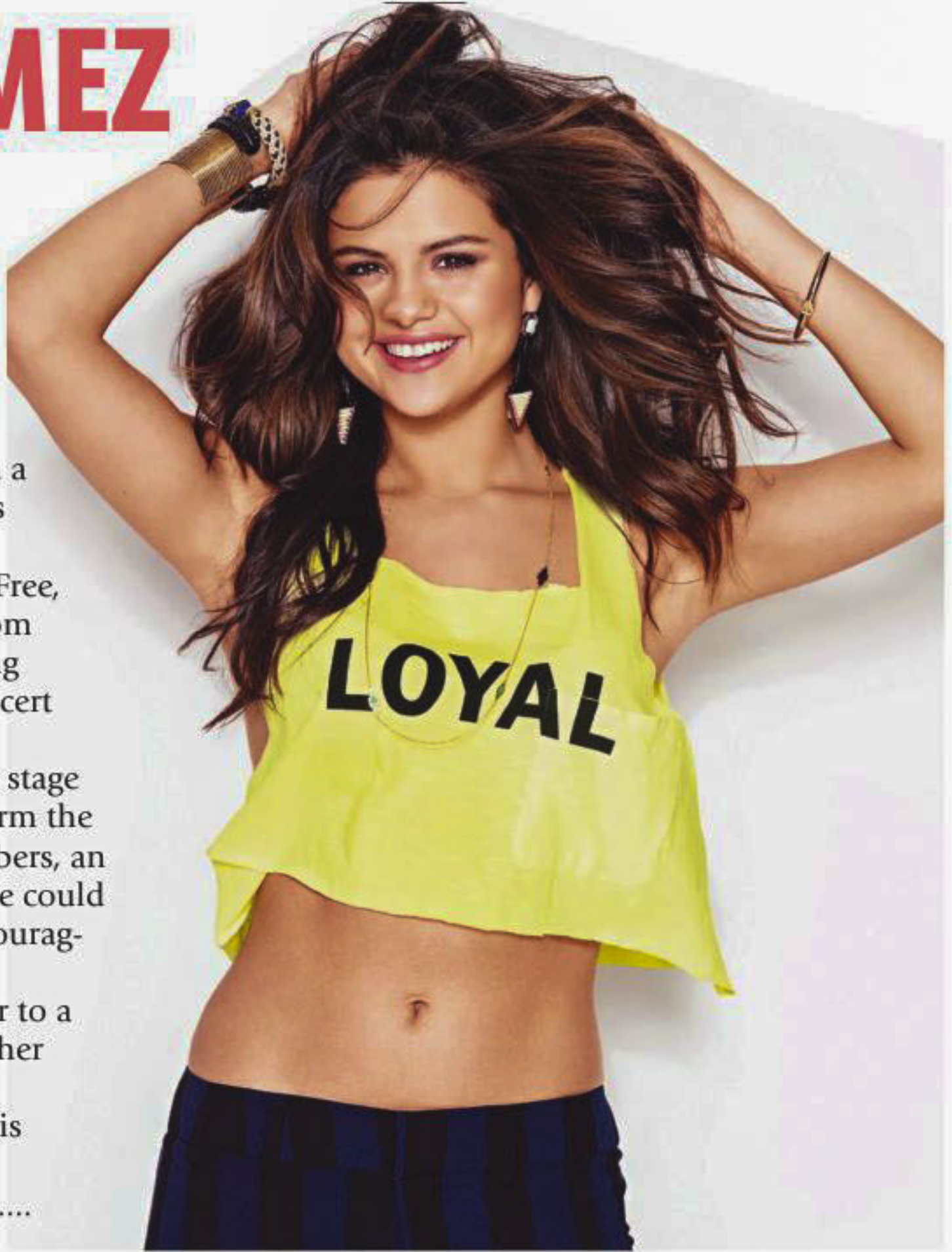
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Popular Indian singer Angarag Mahanta, known mostly by his nickname Papon, performed at the Ethnicity Concert in Dhaka on Thursday evening. The musical show, presented by Cignal Events, was held at Naboratri Hall of International Convention City Bashundhara in the capital.

In addition to Papon, Bangladeshi singer Shawon Gaanwala and his band Jo-Fola performed at the event. The event began with Shawon's performance. Starting his set with Kazi Nazrul Islam's "Ajo Kaande Kanone Koyelia", he went on to sing popular Bangla songs including "Bhromor Koiyo Giya", "Shono Go Dokhino Hawa", "Haar Kala", "Kotodin Dekhini Tomaye", "Olir Kotha Shune Bokul Haashe". He had the energy in his voice, but the tune and rhythm was somewhat missing.

Later, Papon and his band The East India Company came up on the stage. He set off his performance with "Dinae Dinae", a popular fusion of Assamese and Punjabi song incorporating Bhatiali tune. Papon went on to sing "Megh", "Kyun", "Khumar" and more.

SELENA GOMEZ surprises concertgoers



Selena Gomez surprised concertgoers with a performance of her song "Nobody" at LA's Belasco Theatre on Thursday evening.

The 23-year-old singer joined Young & Free, a Christian band and youth movement from Sydney, Australia's Hillsong Church, during their scheduled stop at the downtown concert venue while on their Youth Revival tour.

Gomez was welcomed to the Hill Street stage by loud cheers from the audience to perform the song alongside Young & Free's band members, an attendee told The Hollywood Reporter. She could be seen lifting her arms in the air and encouraging the audience to sing along.

In October, the singer replied on Twitter to a questioning fan who asked what inspired her to write the song on her Revival album. "God," Gomez replied, adding "Nobody" is about Him."

Source: Billboard

India and Bangladesh exchange films in theatres

"Chuye Dile Mon" and "Bela Sheshe" released

A CORRESPONDENT

"Chuye Dile Mon" and "Bela Sheshe" released at theatres in West Bengal, India and Bangladesh respectively, on February 26.

The two films -- "Chuye Dile Mon" from Bangladesh and "Bela Sheshe" from India -- were released as part of an exchange programme under SAFTA agreement. The agreement allows the commercial release of any Bangladeshi film in any SAFTA country, and in exchange Bangladesh can commercially release any film from that country.

Asiatic Dhonichitra and Monforing, the producers of "Chuye Dile Mon", have successfully imported "Bela Sheshe", a hit Tollywood flick by director duo Nandita Roy and Shiboprasad Mukherjee.

"Bela Sheshe" reunites Satyajit Ray's iconic "Ghare Baire" pair, Soumitra Chatterjee and Swatilekha Sengupta, on the big screen after 30 years. The



Soumitra and Swatilekha in "Bela Sheshe".

film also stars Rituparna Ghosh, Aparajita Auddy, Monami Ghosh, Indrani Dutta, Sohini Sengupta, Kharaj Mukherjee and Anindya Chatterjee, among others.

This is the first time a Bangladeshi film has been commercially released in India. "Bela Sheshe" and "Chuye Dile Mon" have received censorship certification from the monitoring authorities of the two countries.

Bollywood welcomes back 'Munnabhai'

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

When Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt walked to freedom emerging from a prison in western Indian city of Pune on Thursday after serving out his jail-term in a deadly bomb blast case, he saluted the soil outside the prison gate and the prison itself before boarding a vehicle. Among a handful of persons waiting for him were his wife Mannayata and director-producer Rajkumar Hirani, the man whose "Munnabhai MBBS" starring Dutt was a superhit movie. 56-year-old Dutt's salutations were reciprocated in equal measure by the entire Hindi film industry

who welcomed him back into mainstream life saying a grand second innings awaits him on the big screen.

Bollywood insiders say the film industry hopes to ride on Dutt for big bucks from films starring him, and new projects have already been lined up.

The first film that will come out is an action-thriller directed by Siddharth Anand, who had made "Bang Bang" starring Hrithik Roshan and Katrina Kaif. The new film, to be shot across six countries, is expected to go on the floor this summer.

Hirani has already confirmed

that he is working on another sequel -- the third one -- to "Munnabhai MBBS." Hirani is also making a biopic on Dutt, which has Ranbir Kapoor in lead role.

Besides, filmmakers Vidhu Vinod Chopra and Umesh Shukla, maker of "Oh My God", also plan to make films featuring Dutt.

Director Rohit Shetty says Dutt has a certain role etched out for him in films and it is a matter of time when he will be flooded with offers.

Bollywood grapevine is also buzzing that veteran Subhash Ghai and Sanjay Gupta are also planning sequels to "Khalnayak" and "Kaante" with Dutt.





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