

WHAT'S ON

Int'l Dance Day Programme
 Organisers: BNSS & BSA
 Venue: National Art Gallery Plaza, BSA
 Date: April 23-29
 Time: 5:30pm-9pm

An Evening of Ghazal
 Organiser: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre
 Artist: Mustafa Zaman Abbasi and Samira Abbasi
 Venue: IGCC, Gulshan-1
 Date: April 29; Time: 6:30pm

Group Painting Exhibition
 Title: Shokkala
 Venue: Zainul Gallery, FFA, DU
 Date: April 24-30
 Time: 11am-8pm

Nrityanchal Utshab
 Venue: National Theatre Hall & Nandanmancha, BSA
 Date: April 27-29
 Time: 7pm daily

Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Eternal Affection
 Artist: Sheikh Afzal
 Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts
 Date: April 16-May 7
 Time: 10am-8pm

EDM Concert
 DJ: Nikhil Chinapa
 Venue: Westin Dhaka
 Date: April 29
 Time: 8:30pm

STAR MELODIES' TRIBUTE TO

Khandaker Nurul Alam and Robin Ghosh



ZAHANGIR ALOM

The recent installment of Star Melodies, a series of regular musical programmes highlighting the heritage, legacy and opulence of Bangla music, was held on April 23 at Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct, The Daily Star Centre.

As homage to two great composers -- Khandaker Nurul Alam and Robin Ghosh-both of whom passed away earlier this year -the soiree was held befittingly with performances by four artistes -- Parveen Sultana, Nasima Shaheen, Aloke Kumar Sen and Sabbir Zaman--who rendered evergreen songs of the duo.

Eminent personalities including noted lyricist KG Mustafa, eminent filmmaker Morshedul Islam, media personality Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury, Kishwar, wife of Khandaker Nurul Alam, thespian Tabibul Islam and Jamal Abedin spoke.

Eminent singer-exponent and Editor of Star Arts and Entertainment Sadya Afreeen

Mallick and music buff Iftekharul Islam anchored the programme.

"Khandakar Nurul Alam was my classmate both at school and university. My songwriting career started with the inspiration of Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal. During our university days, Nurul Alam composed songs and motivated me to write songs. I started writing songs for films. I worked together with Robin Ghosh in the film 'Rajdhanir Buk-e'. I wrote the song 'Tomarey Legechhe Etoje Bhalo' while Ghosh composed it. My career reached its peak when I was working with Robin," said KG Mostafa.

"About preservation of his songs, Khandakar Nurul Alam would say, 'Some-day my songs will be iterated from generation to generation. That I think is the best way to preserve my songs'," recalled Kishwar, wife of Khandaker Nurul Alam.

"Robin Ghosh always felt that his immense talent and experience of music was unutilised after his return from Pakistan for good. A successful music com-

poser who single-handedly created timeless songs for both Bengali and Urdu films competing with Bollywood, remained idle and none could utilise his talents for many years. Once he remorsefully said that his body should not be taken to the BFDC (Bangladesh Film Development Corporation) premises after his death," mentioned Jamal Abedin, an expatriate music enthusiast living in USA.

Stalwarts of Bangla music, Khandaker Nurul Alam and Robin Ghosh are the two music creators who strongly represent the golden era of Bangla Music of three decades -- 60s, 70s and 80s, said Iftekharul Islam.

The first half saw the rendition of 10 songs composed by Khandakar Nurul Alam followed by 10 popular songs created by Robin Ghosh. Nasima Shaheen set off the soiree with the song "Akash Ta Toh Neel Chithi Noy". She mesmerised the audience with her rendition of the numbers "Ek Boroshar Brishtite Bhije", "Eto Shukh Shoibo Kemon Kore" and "Phuler Kaane Bhromor Eshey".

Noted artiste Parveen Sultana started off with

the song "Tumi Jodi Bole Ditey" and beautifully performed "Jonom Jonom Dhorey Prem Piyashi", "Ei Sundor Prithibite", "Ami Roop Nogorer Rajkonya" and "Bhule Gecchi Sur Ogo".

Aloke Kumar Sen first rendered "Ami Chand Ke Bolechhi", and went on to perform "E A(n)dhar Kokhono Jabe Na Muchhe", "Ke Jeni Aj Amar Chokhe", "Tomarey Legechhe Eto Je Bhalo" and an Urdu track "Pyar Bhare Do Sharmile Nain". Sadya Afreeen Mallick requested Aloke to sing the sthayi part of the "Tomarey Legechhe Eto Je Bhalo" again after his performance, with the audience joining in chorus.

Sabbir Zaman won many hearts with his performance of popular songs like "Chokh Je Moner Kotha Bole", "Paharer Kanna Dekhe", "Aynatey Oi Mukh Dekhbe Jokhon", "Pitch Dhala Oi Poth Takey" and an Urdu track "Kabhi Toh Tumko Yaad Aaye".

The audience thoroughly enjoyed the performances of the songs. The live renditions coupled with the visual projection of the original tracks entertained the audience.

Eastern Bank Limited and Chalacchitram assisted in the programme.



Artistes perform at the event (top); Iqbal Bahar CHowdhury receives KG Mustafa; Morshedul Islam, Jamal Abedin and Kishwar speak. PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



The writer at the event.

NEWS bytes

Stephen Merchant joins WOLVERINE 3

British actor-producer Stephen Merchant has joined Fox's "Wolverine 3", opposite Hugh Jackman and Patrick Stewart.

The film will start shooting in May, with James Mangold directing David James Kelly's script. Jackman has asserted that the third "Wolverine" film will be his final appearance as the character.

Boyd Holbrook came on board two weeks ago as the main villain in "Wolverine 3."

Fox has scheduled "Wolverine 3" for March 3. "X-Men Origins: Wolverine", directed by Gavin Hood, was the fourth

Salman's Olympian controversy

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bollywood celebrities have come out in full throttle backing Indian Olympic Association's (IOA) decision to appoint superstar Salman Khan as goodwill ambassador of Indian contingent for the Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Olympics in June this year amid controversy over his selection as the face of the games.

The opinion among Indian sports fraternity is divided on Salman's appointment, saying IOA should have opted for a sports icon not a Bollywood star as the goodwill ambassador. Former short distance runner Milkha Singh, on whose life Bollywood made a feature film "Bhag Milkha Bhag" starring Farhan Akhtar in title role, and current Olympian wrestler Yogesh Dutt have opposed Salman as the brand ambassador.

The Indian Olympic Association has justified its decision saying Salman will help attract the youth to the Olympics which is not as popular in India as say cricket or football or hockey.

However, Bollywood celebrities like Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Katrina Kaif, Sidharth Malhotra and Karan Johar have supported Salman's involvement with the games.

Johar, whose popular TV chat show "Koffee with Karan" saw Salman as the first guest on its last season said "whatever he does I think he is the best."

Katrina, taking a friendly jibe at her former boyfriend, said "is a controversy about Salman a new thing?"

Salman's father Salim Khan had defended his appointment yesterday.

"Salman may not have competed but is an A list swimmer, cyclist and weight lifter. Sportsmen are performing because of sports lovers like us," Salim had said.

Asked about her views on the controversy, Aishwarya said, "I have to say that anyone, who is doing good to represent the country or working or speaking or standing for the betterment of art, music or sports, is wonderful and the person needs to be recognized."

Sidharth said he had no clue about the controversy but thinks the jury made the right decision.

BJP MP and yesteryear actress Hema Malini also supported the decision, saying Salman's popularity is being utilised for a good cause.

BJP MP and actress Kirron Kher also supported Salman. "I think that the sportsmen of this country need to have a bigger heart. I've played badminton for this country, my sister has captained the Indian team, she is an Arjuna award winner. She has won medals at the Commonwealth (games) for badminton... I think we know Milkha uncle (Milkha



Singh) very well..." Kher said.

"I feel when we choose someone like Salman Khan, it also brings in a lot of corporates. There are several sports which are not cricket, which need money, for coaching and all...The government can do only this much. And if he (Salman) brings in all that into it, I think it's wonderful for the sportsmen involved," she added.

"Someone had told me that 'film people live in an imaginary world and we sports people live in reality'. I would like to tell them that we live very much in reality. The amount of hard work that people in this line do, I doubt if many people in the country or world can," the 60-year-old actress said.

Actress Malaika Arora Khan too backed Salman on his appointment as a goodwill ambassador of the Indian contingent for the Rio Olympics.

"He is what he is for a reason and was chosen for a reason. You have to give credit to the people who chose him purely because they know his leverage and what he brings to the stage," she said.

While the debate may rage if the world of sports and Bollywood are poles apart, the jury is still out on the coming together of the two.

FUTURE FANTASTIC

The 20th Biennale of Sydney

ENAYETULLAH KHAN

It was a thrilling experience to attend the Biennale of Sydney, an international festival of contemporary art held every two years in Sydney, Australia, shortly after it opened this year. It is the largest and best-attended contemporary visual arts event in the country. Alongside the Venice and São Paulo biennales and Documenta, it is one of the longest-running exhibitions of its kind and was the first biennale to be established in the Asia-Pacific region. This year's 20th Biennale, which is currently on, was curated by Stephanie Rosenthal, from Munich's Haus der Kunst. Rosenthal assembled an advisory group of 13 international curators, writers and theorists to help shape the Biennale with her.

Rosenthal's specialty is said to be movement and performance-based art, and that explains why choreographic giant William Forsythe, Boris Charmatz, and expat young Australian choreographer Adam Linder are hot tickets at this year's biennale.

In one of the more innovative ideas, the art - from 83 artists and collectives - was

arranged in 'embassies of thought': Cockatoo Island (Embassy of the Real); Art Gallery of New South Wales (Embassy of Spirits); Carriageworks (Embassy of Disappearance); Artspace (Embassy of Non-Participation); Museum of Contemporary Art (Embassy of Translation); a bookshop (Embassy of Stanislaw Lem); and the Mortuary Station (Embassy of Transition).

The 20th Biennale of Sydney: "The future is already here - it's just not evenly distributed", is presented free to the public from March 18 until June 5.

The 20th Biennale of Sydney will present the work of more than 80 artists across seven venues or 'embassies of thought' - including heritage-listed former prison and shipyard Cockatoo Island and former railyard carriage-works - along with the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia and Artspace. For the first time in 2016, works will be installed at the Mortuary Station in Redfern and at other 'in between' locations around Sydney's inner west.



film in the X-Men series and grossed \$375 million worldwide in 2009. Four years later, Mangold directed "The Wolverine", which grossed \$415 million worldwide.

"The Wolverine" was the sixth film in the X-Men universe, followed by "X-Men: Days of Future Past", "Deadpool" and "X-Men: Apocalypse", which opens May 27. "Wolverine 3" will be the 10th film in the franchise.

Merchant co-created the original British sitcom "The Office" with Ricky Gervais. He also worked on "The Ricky Gervais Show" and "Life's Too Short".

Source: Variety