

WHAT'S ON

Group Painting Exhibition
 Title: Sublime Beauty of Lands and Rivers
 Venue: La Galerie, AFD, Dhanmondi
 Date: July 15-20
 Time: 3-9pm (Mon-Thur) & 9am-12noon & 5-8pm (Fri & Sat)

Solo Folk Art Exhibition
 Artist: Tiger Nazir Hossain
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: Jul 29-Aug 8
 Time: 12noon-8pm

Group Photography Exhibition
 Title: Chittagong Hill Tracts: People and Nature
 Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi
 Date: July 15-19
 Time: 3-8pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: 'Enigma' by Sayed Fida Hossain
 Venue: EMK Centre, Midas Centre Building (9th Floor), H-5, Rd-27, Dhanmondi
 Date: July 16-28; Time: 10am-8pm

Asian Cinema Retrospective 2016
 Moviyan Film Society & BSA
 Venue: Nat'l Digital Cultural Archive Room, Nat'l Theatre Hall, BSA
 Date: Jul-Nov (Fri & Sat)
 Time: 3-8pm



Ferdous Ara



Laisa Ahmed Lisa

BANGA SAMMELAN '16

An experience of a lifetime

Tête-à-tête with Ferdous and Laisa

ZAIMA ZAHRA

Banga Sammelan—also known as North American Bangali Conference-NABC, is a conference held in North America to showcase Bengali culture. The conference set off its journey back in 1981 and since then it has become an annual event of Cultural Association of Bengal. Prominent artistes Ferdous Ara and Laisa Ahmed Lisa went to USA to attend the conference in June. This year's conference was a milestone, as it took place at the historic Madison Square Garden Theater, Manhattan in New York. The enthused artistes shared their experience in conversation with the Daily Star:

How do you view Banga Sammelan?

Ferdous: The feeling is just amazing. I was very proud to perform on a platform like Banga Sammelan and that too by presenting our National Poet and his songs. This is not the first time that I have performed at Banga Sammelan but I would like to highlight this year's event as I had the opportunity to perform at the prestigious Madison Square Garden Theater.

Laisa: This year's Banga Sammelan was definitely one of the best in terms of venue as well as the performances. One extraordinary moment was the chance to perform a group number; it was named "Sangeeter Jatra" (The Journey of Music) and was basically about the journey of Bangla music. In the

performance all of us had to sing at least a portion of a song while the history of music was described by Sujoy Prasad Chatterjee. This initiative was a cherry on the top of this year's Banga Sammelan.

Which songs did you perform at Banga Sammelan?

Ferdous: I tried to maintain variations such as kabya geeti, semi-classical, shayma sangeet, folk, jhumur and kirtan. Some of the songs were "Amaye nohe go", "Kuhu kuhu koyeliya", "Bhuli kemone", "Aye ma Uma" and a few more.

Laisa: I performed nine songs, among them "Puja parjaye" and "Barsha" were a part of it. I started my performance with "Aj Jemon korey gaichhey akash", "Je ratey

mor duarguli", "Jodi prem dile na prane", "Kal rater bela" and ended with "Boro bedonar moto"

What was the audience reaction like?

Ferdous: Every performance of Banga Sammelan was remarkable and I was gratified by how listeners welcomed our performance. One listener said we were able to touch their hearts, and that for me was the compliment of the day.

Laisa: Just like last year, I received a standing ovation from the listeners and it was a moment to recall. Plus the listeners were discerning though most of the listeners were Bengalis from West Bengal rather than Bangladeshi listeners because of Ramadan.

Lucky Akhand's physical condition deteriorates

A CORRESPONDENT

Seasoned singer, composer and creator of numerous timeless modern Bangla songs and an artiste of war-time radio station Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra; Lucky Akhand has fought a long battle with lung cancer. He was flown to Bangkok, Thailand in September last year for treatment. After six months of treatment he returned to the country on March 25.

According to sources, the 61-year-old singer should have returned to Bangkok in June this year for five chemotherapy sessions, but couldn't due to financial constraints.

As his condition deteriorated further; he was admitted to BIRDEM and later shifted to United Hospital, said his daughter Mum Minti.

The singer initially sought no charity; but now seeks financial help both from the government and his large fan following.

Born in 1955 in Old Dhaka, Lucky Akhand was enlisted as a music composer of HMV Pakistan when he was barely 14 and a musician of HMV India at 16.

In 1971, he joined Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, a radio station that throughout the Liberation War remained engaged in supporting the Liberation War against the Pakistan occupation forces and kept up the morale of Freedom Fighters through patriotic songs.

Today's rock music scene in Bangladesh owes a great deal to Lucky. His fans and fellow musicians all pray that he pulls through the medical crisis.



NEWS bytes

Marvel kills Bruce Banner

Marvel has killed off The Hulk's human alter ego Bruce Banner in its latest comic.

The character is seen dying as a result of an arrow to the head from Hawkeye, his Avengers teammate, in the third issue of Civil War II. Hawkeye is seen killing his friend on the belief Banner is about to turn into the Hulk and unleash massive death and destruction. Banner had recently asked him for a mercy killing in the event of any disaster.

Banner has been the Hulk's alter ego since the character's creation in 1962. However, for the last



year, readers have seen Banner medicating himself to keep his anger management issues under control. During that time, a Korean-American teenage genius named Amadeus Cho has taken over as the new human alter-ego of The Hulk.

It is not yet clear whether Banner could return in a similar way, but Marvel indicated there were no plans for a return.

Source: BBC

A TALE OF TWO JUDGES

"Musical Premiere League" on Channel i



Partha Barua and Bappa Mazumder: The prime judges of new reality show.

A CORRESPONDENT

Popular singer-musician -- Partha Barua and Bappa Mazumder -- are the prime judges of new reality show "Musical Premiere League" that kicked off on Channel i July 15. The exciting show is watched avidly by viewers at 7:50pm from Friday to Monday.

"I will always play a role in music related competitions. I am a keen singer and want true artistes to dominate the upcoming music industry of our country. I hope to have at least 10 good singers emerge from 'Musical Premiere League'. They will be good ambassadors for our music," said Barua.

"From the very first beginning I was optimistic about the show.

My hope increases manifold as I get more closely involved in the show. We will get a good number of quality singers to carry our musical legacy forward," said Mazumder.

Barua's first film "Aynabaji", directed by Amitava Reza, will release on August 19. The singer-turned-actor will be involved in the promotion of the film. Apart from the reality show, Bappa Mazumder is busy with several new songs that will hit the audio bazaar during upcoming Eid-ul-Azha.

One of the main judges of the show is noted singer Shakila Zafar while the eight team leaders are Sabbir, Mehedi, Sandipan, Parvez Sajjad, Nishita Barua, Dithi Anowar, Putul and Konal.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AN ACE

Shah Rukh launches book on Sania

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

It was a heady show involving two aces—one from tinsel town and another from the world of sports.

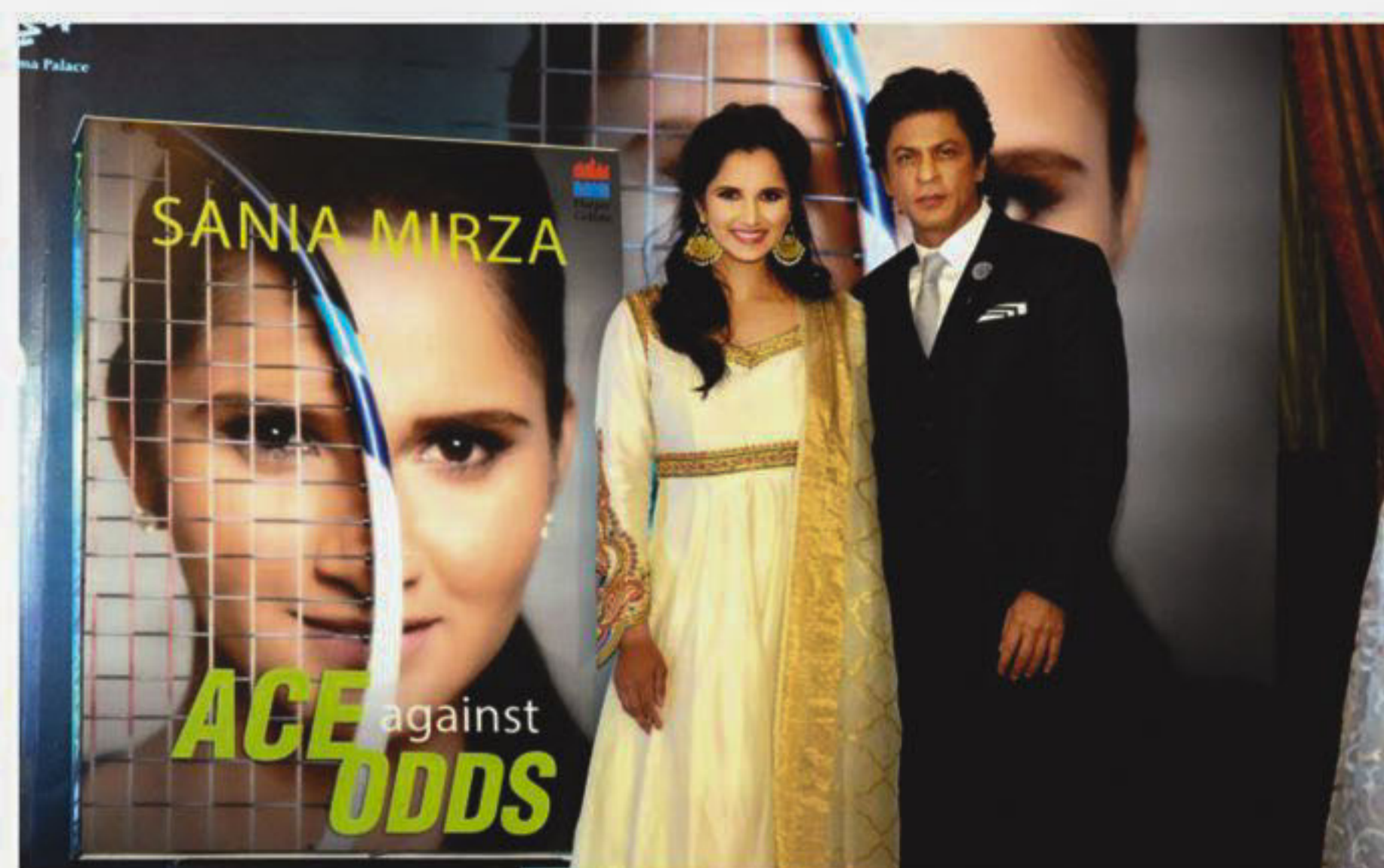
Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan on Wednesday launched the autobiography of Indian tennis star Sania Mirza titled 'Ace Against Odds' in her hometown Hyderabad on Wednesday night.

"Genuinely...I feel that the more love we show to our girls...the more love we show to our women and the more love and respect we show to our ladies...believe me, we will have many more achievements which are world class like Sania's," the 50-year-old actor told reporters.

"Have a lot of respect...genuinely, I am telling you here are no bigger achievers than women in this world," the "Dilwale" star said.

"She (Sania) is the 'rani' of racket," he quipped.

Khan said "Sania has done more than anyone else to make our country proud.



We would remember people like athlete P T Usha, boxer Mary Kom and Sania Mirza who have led the way for lots of boys and girls to take up sports as a professional career and make our country even

prouder."

Sania, for her part, said, "I couldn't have thought of a better person to do it (the launch). All I had to do is, just say can you (SRK) please come and unveil

this very special thing for me? That's all I had to say and he is here".

The book captures Sania's journey of becoming World's No.1 player in women's doubles and the difficulties and challenges faced by her in making her dream come true.

Khan feels any movie made on tennis star Sania Mirza will be inspiring and he may like to produce it.

Appreciating Sania's grit, determination and love for the sport to rise to the top ranking in doubles game despite her injury, he said Sania had an injury and she could not continue with the singles career but she twisted it around and she became the No.1 in doubles.

"We all will take away something fantastic from this book...we all will have some learning lesson. Her experiences are very vital and to understand how you fight against things which are going against you," he said, adding that she's just truly absolutely inspiring and there should also be a part-two of this book," Khan said.