

THE WEEKENDER

“My ideal weekend would definitely be not working”
...Akhi Alamgir

ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

Akhi Alamgir is a noted singer and television personality in her own right. However, while the focus is usually on the professional personas of celebrities, today Akhi Alamgir shares with us some tidbits about her life outside of work.

What is your ideal weekend?
Akhi Alamgir: My ideal weekend would definitely be not working, and to go out for shopping.

Do you have any hidden talents that your fans are unaware of?
Akhi Alamgir: Apart from singing, I love dancing and cooking, and I also write.

Are you a coffee or a tea person?
Akhi Alamgir: I prefer coffee.

How do you enjoy spending rainy days?
Akhi Alamgir: If I am at home, I like to curl up with a mug of coffee and watch a movie.

What's your most cherished childhood memory?
Akhi Alamgir: My favourite memories have been going on vacations abroad with my family.

Which is your favourite place outside the country?
Akhi Alamgir: I love London, because I am very familiar with the city and I can go around without being recognised. It's also a fantastic place to go shopping, and I love the food there.

What are you working on?
Akhi Alamgir: I am working on my 19th solo album, as well as some mixed albums.

What are you reading?
Akhi Alamgir: Right now I'm reading a very funny book written by Twinkle Khanna titled "Mrs. Funnybones: She's Just Like You and a Lot Like Me."

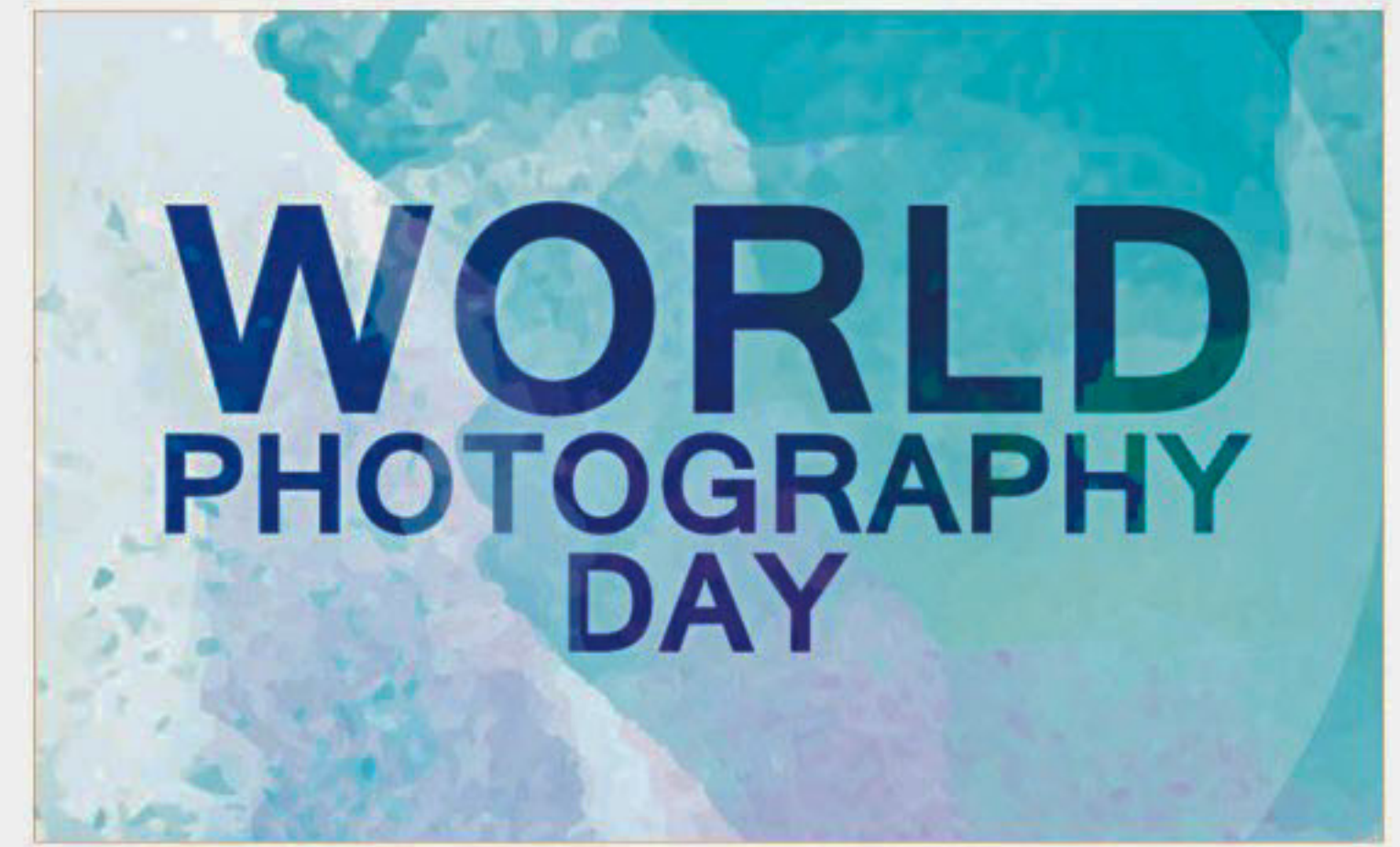


PHOTO: STAR

World Photography Day today

GROUP SHOW AT PATHSHALA

Pathshala-South Asian Media Institute will celebrate World Photography Day on August 19 at the institute in Panthapath, Dhaka, says a press release.



The day is all about celebrating photography whether people see themselves as amateurs or professionals.

Marking the occasion, Pathshala will feature a portfolio review session for amateur photography students and presentations by six Pathshala alumni who will showcase their personal body of work. Besides, a group exhibition titled "19" is on by six Pathshala students who are graduating from the professional photography programme this year. These works collectively explore the idea of family, home, alienation, anxiety and other experiences. To create such images, participants are open to use photographs, moving images, sounds and archival materials.

The exhibition is a result of six-month research, conducted and curated by Sarker Protick. The participants are -- M Hasan Tareque, Nayeem Tushar, Taufiqur Rahman Anik, Nasirul Islam, Minhaz Marzu and Tushar Shahidur Rahman.

LADY GAGA to star in Bradley Cooper-directed 'A Star Is Born'



Warner Bros has green lit "A Star Is Born." Production begins early next year in California, marking the directorial debut of Bradley Cooper, who'll also star alongside Lady Gaga. Latter gets her first studio starring role, as the ingenue singer whose star rises as quickly as her troubled lover/mentor's star is falling. Deals have been closed by Warner Bros president of Creative Development and WW Production Greg Silverman, and Gaga will compose and perform new music for the film. This picture has been a long time coming for Cooper, who is teaming on the script with Will Fetters. Billy Gerber and Jon Peters are producing with Cooper and his Joint Effort partner Todd Phillips. Basil Iwanyk is exec producer. Production will begin early next year in California.

Deadline was first to reveal that Gaga was the one Cooper wanted, after things didn't work out with Beyonce. Aside from her megawatt stature as a Grammy-winning recording star, Gaga has bolstered her standing on the acting front with a performance in the FX hit "American Horror Story" that won a Golden Globe. She also got an Oscar nomination for "Til It Happens To You" from the documentary "The Hunting Ground." They all felt Cooper was ready to be a director and that Gaga was ready to take the next step as an actress.

Source: Deadline

From passion to profession: 30 YEARS WITH MAGIC The story of Rajib Basak

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

Chittagong-born Rajib Basak, a leading magician, likes to introduce himself as a magic entertainer. But it's been a long haul. "When I decided to pursue magic as my profession, I was a bit uncertain whether I could survive, especially living outside the capital city," said Basak to The Daily Star. "But I was determined to pursue my career in magic as it's my passion and a form of contemplation."

Rajib's decision proved right on target. He has bagged the glorious experience of performing around 10,000 magic shows at home and abroad.

When Rajib started to work with magic in 1986, he was just a 16-year-old teenager who had finished his SSC examination. Inspired by the magic shows of country's famous magician Jewel Aich, Rajib became passionate about magic in his childhood.

When Jewel Aich came to Chittagong for a show at Institute of Engineers in 1984, the little Rajib met him and

expressed his desire to become a magician.

"Jewel Aich affectionately advised me to complete my studies first," said. "Then in 1986 I joined one of my friends who use to do magic."

"Slowly, I realised that I couldn't live without magic and so in 2005, I decided to take up magic as my profession," said Rajib.

"I prefer to introduce myself as a magic entertainer rather than a magician," he said. "I have a commitment to society, to this country and so I try to

disseminate positive messages and messages of patriotism through my shows."

It's been tough. "There is no stage meant for magic shows anywhere in the country. Magicians remain neglected in the country's official cultural exchange tours abroad."

"We used to see magic shows in the magazine programmes of Bangladesh Television regularly even 15 years ago but now we don't although there are a sizeable number of private television channels in the country," signed off Basak.



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



Dhoni biopic trailer wins many hearts

The trailer of the upcoming biopic, 'MS Dhoni: The Untold Story', has received a phenomenal response. Indian skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, on whom the movie is based, unveiled the promo across three cities — Jalandhar, New Delhi and Mumbai — in front of 60,000 people.

Sushant Singh Rajput, who portrays the role of the cricketer on screen, direc-

tor Neeraj Pandey and producers Vijay Singh and Arun Pandey got a glimpse of the sports star's fan following.

Dhoni's story is that of a small-town boy who dreamed big and dared to break norms. Neeraj, who has scripted as well as helmed the film, is overwhelmed with the response. He says, "I'm extremely happy that cricket fans have loved our effort of portraying the

life of their icon on screen."

Vijay, the CEO of Fox Star Studios, states, "We are humbled. Our biggest victory is that people have found our portrayal of the life and times of Dhoni authentic."

'MS Dhoni: The Untold Story', will be released on September 30.

Source: Times of India