

WHAT'S ON

Group Art Exhibition
Title: "Art Against Terrorism - BRAVE HEART"
Venue: Gallery Cosmos, H-115, Lane-6, New DOHS, Mohakhali
Date: August 19-31
Time: 12am-8pm

Photography Exhibition
Title: Faces. Places. Stories
Artist: Ata Mohammad Adnan
Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
Date: Aug 13-31
Time: 9:30am-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Salma Abedin Prithi
Venue: Kalakendra, 1/11, Iqbal Rd, Mohammadpur
Date: August 12-30
Time: 5-8pm

Painting Exhibition
Title: Reflections
Artist: Lubna Charya
Venue: Galerie Zoom, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Date: Aug 30- Sep 9
Time: 2:30-8pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: "Shilper Aloye Bangabandhu"
Venue: Gallery 3, National Art Gallery Plaza, BSA
Date: August 1-31
Time: 11am-8pm

SWEETY'S BIG DAY!

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Over her long career, model-cum-actress, Tanvin Sweetie has produced quite a few TV plays. However, the once popular actress is rarely seen before the camera any more. Today is Sweetie's birthday. In a recent chit chat with The Daily Star, she talked about her birthday plans and more. Excerpts:

What are your birthday plans this year?
Sweetie: My best friends draw out the plan for the day. Sometimes they give me a surprise. This time I plan to go out for dinner with some of my friends - Jaya, Lubna, Faisal, and their children.

What's your favourite birthday gift?
Sweetie: Many people, known and anonymous, wish me through Facebook and other media. People's love is my best birthday gift. However, I once received a doll on my birthday and that made me really happy.

Tell us about a birthday surprise that you still remember?
Sweetie: In 2004, I went to America to attend a programme. After a month-long tour, I went to visit my sister-in-law in Dubai where I stayed for 10 days. Interestingly when she opened the door on my birthday, I saw my husband Ripon standing outside with flowers to wish me. I was very moved.

Why are you so rarely seen before the camera?
Sweetie: Most importantly, I want to keep my image. But it's not right to say that I don't do any work before the camera. I recently shot a TV play. However, everything depends on a strong plot, experienced director and a reasonable budget.

Why haven't you acted in any films after "Bashi"?
Sweetie: I am less interested in commercial movies but if it's a good film, I will think about it. It's a media I have chosen so I want to do justice to my work. My priority is good work.



SAHANA BAJPAIE returns with folk album

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wonderful news for fans of Sahana Bajpaie. The artiste, who is equally popular among music enthusiasts in Bangladesh and West Bengal for popularising Rabindra Sangeet among urban youth in the mid-2000s, is launching her next solo album on September 27.

Under the banner of Hindustan Records Inreco, the folk album titled, "Mon Bandhibi Kemone", features 8 songs of Lalon, Shah Abdul Karim and Bhoba Pagla. Rabiul Islam and Agami TV (Austin Texas, USA) have produced the album.

Samantak Sinha and Satyaki Banerjee - talented musicians from Kolkata and longtime musical collaborators of Sahana - have arranged music for the album. English folk guitarist Mal Darwen and jazz musician Idris Rahman have played in some of the songs as well.

Talking about the recording process, Sahana told The Daily Star, "Some of the numbers have been sung, maintaining the quintessential folk arrangement, and recorded live in the studio to capture the true spirit and essence of folk music."

Though it has been years since she moved from Bangladesh, Sahana's music remains her unbreakable link to her fans here. The Santiniketan-born singer has remained active in her musical pursuits, mostly focusing on Rabindra Sangeet, alongside a teaching career in the UK. Her last solo album, "Ja Bolo Tai Bolo", featuring Rabindra Sangeet, was received very



PHOTO CREDIT: INDRANATH CHATTERJEE

well both in the West Bengal and Bangladesh.

Asked what inspired her to venture into the realm of folk music, the artiste said, "I have been singing Bangla folk songs since I was a child, and I was learning intermittently from our neighbourhood Bauls in Santiniketan. Incidentally, I was the first lead singer of the folk fusion band Bangla when it was formed by Shayan Chowdhury Arnob. Later, Anusheh Anadil joined as the lead singer and of course that gave the band a brilliant edge which made it so popular. But my deep interest in folk songs has always remained, and I sing them at my concerts. I feel this indefinable energy when I sing folk songs, especially because there are no constraints when it comes to these timeless tunes. The big bosses are not watching and judging, as it were. It is people's music."



Beyonce passes Madonna with the most VMAs ever

Beyonce officially has the most VMAs ever.

With her wins at the 2016 awards, she passes Madonna as the most decorated artist.

Before Sunday night (Aug. 28), Beyonce had 16 Moonmen and Madonna had 20. But Beyonce's six awards put her over the top.

Beyonce dedicated her video of the year award for "Formation" to "the people of New Orleans."

The star also took home best female video for "Hold Up" and swept the technical nominations with "Formation."

Source: **Billboard**

Theatre Sust stages "Bedhua" Plight of tea labourers

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Sust

Most of 'Theatre Sust' plays have been staged in different area of the country by local troupes, either in pure translation or in contextual adaptation. Many of these productions are still regularly staged and some of the plays are, now and then, produced in new styles by the theatre troupes.

But it is perhaps for the 2nd time in Shahjalal University of Science and Technology central auditorium at Sylhet city on Wednesday night that the audience enjoyed an adaptation by Theatre Sust members.

"Bedhua" written by Niharendu Kor has been re-directed by Md. Jahangir Alam. According to Theatre Sust & Bedhua, tea cultivation in the region began when tea labourers were imported from different areas of the sub-continent, such as Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh and toiled under inhuman conditions

in the tea gardens.

Tea workers are mostly landless people brought in from various Indian states (when it was under Assam state) after the British rulers set up the first tea gardens in the 1850s. They are among the most marginalised and disadvantaged groups, living in cramped, unhygienic mud-roofed houses where they are allowed to stay as long as a family member is working. The workers live on hand-made bread and tea which they make by drying the leaf of tea laced with salt. Most of the families can eat rice only for dinner.

Mizanur Rahman, president of Theatre Sust said, "People around the country enjoy a cup of tea every day. But most people even don't know about the abysmally poor quality of life of the workers in some of the tea estate in Sylhet region. We, the consumers who drink tea every day have the power to improve the conditions for these poor tea estate workers."



PHOTO: STAR



Kona Reza on BTV's "Shilpo Kotha"

A CORRESPONDENT

Noted cultural personality and entrepreneur Kona Reza will be seen on television sharing her life experiences, both personal and professional, for the first time. Produced by Shah Zaman Miya, the show is planned and hosted by Raju Alim.

BTV and BTV World will air "Shilpo Kotha" today at 3pm.

KATRINA'S next ventures

Though Katrina Kaif officially has no other movie than "Baar Baar Dekho" and "Jagga Jasoos," speculations are rife that the actress is in talks for Kabir Khan's "Ek Tha Tiger" sequel opposite Salman Khan, Anand L. Rai's next opposite Shah Rukh Khan, "ABCD 3" with Varun Dhawan and a movie with Dharma Productions.

According to reports, when the 33-year-old actress was quizzed on her next slate of films, she preferred not to answer. "Though this may sound boring and cliché, but I never speak about my films till I sign it. I haven't signed any film yet. If and when that happens, I shall announce it," she said.

The "Fitoor" actress's "Baar Baar Dekho," directed by Nitya Mehra, opposite Sidharth Malhotra, is slated to hit the theatres on September 9.

Source: **Times of India**



Three renowned singers engage with RADIO AMBER 102.4



Three celebrated singers of the country have engaged with the country's first classified FM radio, Radio Amber 102.4, as consultants, says a press release.

The noted singers are Syed Abdul Hadi, Rafiqul Alam and Abida Sultana.

An agreement to this effect was signed between Radio Amber and the singers of the country at its Gulshan office in the city on Sunday.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of

Radio Amber Aminul Hakim, director (marketing) M. Akhteruzzaman and director (programme) Nawshreen Nahreen Mou were present, among others at the signing ceremony.

Addressing the gathering Nawshreen said, "We have designed the programmes of the radio, keeping in mind the choice of audience above 40 and we will broadcast popular songs from the 60s to 90s. Apart from this, we will try to introduce the golden oldies to the new generation."

She added: "The advisers, who have engaged with us, are noted music personalities and they will help us to enrich our music library."

The Radio Amber is scheduled to be inaugurated on September 1, 2016. Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu will be present as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony.