

WHAT'S ON

Nazrul Mela
 Organiser: Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad
 Venue: Bangla Academy
 Date: October 27-29
 Time: 10am-8pm



Musical Soiree
 In Memory of Atul Prasad Sen
 Artists: Laisa Ahmed Lisa & Sifatullah
 Venue: Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct, The Daily Star Centre
 Date: October 27; Time: 6pm



Photography Exhibition
 Organiser: High Commission of India, Standard Chartered Bank & Le Meridien
 Venue: Le Meridien Dhaka
 Date: October 21-29
 Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Rooted in Soil
 Artist: Kamruzzaman Shadhin
 Venue: La Galerie, AFD
 Date: Oct 14-29
 Time: 3-9pm (Mon-Thurs), 9am-12 noon and 5-8pm (Fri-Sat)



Ganga-Jamuna Theatre & Cultural Fest
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: October 21-30
 Time: 4pm




AZAD ABUL KALAM SCORES HALF CENTURY TODAY

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Azad Abul Kalam, a soul entirely dedicated to theatre, turns 50 today (October 26). His creative horizon spans from acting in theatre to TV plays. He is equally adept as a playwright and director. He joined noted theatre troupe Aranyak at an early stage of his life and later founded the versatile theatre troupe Prachyanat.

In celebration of his 50th birth anniversary, members of Prachyanat has organised a three day (October 26-28) programme titled "Tarunno O Taronar 50 Azad Abul Kalam" at Bangladesh Mahila Samity Mancha and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). The inauguration of the programme will start at 6pm today while a Prachyanat production "Circus Circus", written and directed by Azad Abul Kalam, will be staged at Mahila Samity Auditorium, Natok Sarani, Dhaka. The play "Bou Basanti", produced by Udichi, will be staged at the same venue at 7pm on October 27. Written by Ratan Siddiqui, Azad Abul Kalam has directed the play.

October 28, featuring a daylong celebration programme on the title "Bondhu Sanniddhe Azad Abul Kalam", will be held at National Theatre Hall auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Prachyanat artistes will present "Shobdochhobi" at 10am on the day. It will be followed by other proceedings like paying birthday wishes to the thespian; fun and merriment with the performance of songs and poems; an entertaining gathering and open discussion will try to find out the little known stories of Azad Abul Kalam followed by an open adda with tea and lunch.

The highlight of the day is the staging of a popular Prachyanat play "Koinya" at National Theatre Hall auditorium of BSA at 7pm. Murad Khan has written the play while Azad Abul Kalam has directed it. Several artists will portray paintings at the lobby of National Theatre Hall and they will present portraits to Azad Abul Kalam at 10pm. Apart from Prachyanat members and fans of Azad Abul Kalam, theatre activists from other troupes are expected to join the celebration programme.

BDAA holds nationwide dance competition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Dance Artists' Association (BDAA) has arranged a nationwide dance competition on the basis of age and theme. Liaquat Ali Lucky, DG, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) and Nriyagurumata Rahija Khanam Jhunu inaugurated the programme for the final competition on October 23. President of BDAA Minu Haque was present at the function.

For the third consecutive years, BDAA in association with BSA has organised the competition that will continue till October 27 at National Music, Dance and Recitation Centre auditorium of BSA.

The primary selection process for the competition began at all district headquarters on October 3. Five from each group took part in the final competition. The organisers hope to identify the country's 10 best young dancers through the competition. A three-member committee, comprising dance gurus Amanul Haque and Golam Mostafa Khan as advisers and Emdadul Haque Khokon will oversee the smooth running of the competition.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu will distribute certificates among the winners at National Music, Dance and Recitation Centre auditorium on October 31. Cultural Affairs Secretary Begum Akhtari Momtaz will attend the event as special guest while Liaquat Ali Lucky will preside over the programme.

BDAA has instituted a year-long "Bulbul Nritya Britti" (Bulbul Dance Scholarship) named after Nriyacharya Bulbul Chowdhury. The scholarship will be given to four economically straitened dancers.



NEWS bytes

Iran, Turkey dominate APSA nods

Two films each from Iran and from Turkey are nominated for best picture at the 10th edition of the Asia Pacific Screen Awards.

"Daughter" and "Muhammad: Messenger of God" from Iran will compete with Turkey's "Cold



of Kalandar" and Ember", along with Russia's "The Student".

A total of 39 films receive nominations across all the awards categories. "Cold", "Daughter" and "Ember" lead the field with three nominations each. Also with three is Indian helmer Anurag Kashyap's "Psycho Raman".

There is no representation from Asia's most prolific production countries India, China, Japan or Korea in the best picture category.

Prizes will be decided by a jury headed by David Puttnam and handed out at a ceremony in Brisbane, Australia on November 24.



Emon and Himi in "Ami Divorce Chai"

A CORRESPONDENT

Actor Emon recently spent 25 days in France to shoot for Shophon Ahmed's telefilm titled "Paris er Chithi" as well as take a well deserved break. After a brief respite, the actor is back to work with a bang. Now he is gearing up for a TV play, titled "Ami Divorce Chai", directed and scripted by Sanjoy Barua. The lead roles are played by Himi and Emon.

The play marks the first time the duo, who play a married couple, will make a joint appearance on the small screen. Shooting for the play began yesterday in the capital. Other cast members include Monira Mithu, Nazneen Hasan Chumki and Sharan

Saha. Emon shared, "The director reached out to me while I was still in France. After reading the script, I fell in love with the story and jumped at the chance without even knowing who my co-star would be. Although Himi is a newcomer in the industry, she has magnificent talent. I am looking forward to the play's airing and know viewers will love it as well."

Meanwhile Himi commented, "I have worked for a few renowned directors, but this is the first time I am working for Sanjay Barua. He is very organised in his approach, and I am enjoying my work thoroughly so far."

The director has revealed that the play will be aired soon on a satellite channel.

"Sanjbelar Bilap" staged at NSD DU Theatre shines in New Delhi

A CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University's Theatre and Performance Studies presented their new play "Sanjbelar Bilap" ("Delirium of Twilight") directed by Professor Dr. Israfil Shaheen at the Abhimanch at the National School of Drama (NSD) in the inaugural performance of the 9th Asia Pacific Bureau of Theatre Schools Meet Festival in New Delhi, India.

The performance was highly acclaimed by the academics, artists, directors, students and invited guests from more than 20 countries, who are participants of the festival. Beside the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies DU representing Bangladesh, Singapore, China, South Korea, Thailand, Japan, Iran, Malaysia and Indonesia are participating at the festival that was inaugurated by eminent theatre director Ratan Thiyam, with welcome address by NSD director Professor Dr. Waman Kendre.

Two workshops, titled "The ethnographic sensibility for acting" were conducted by Sydur Rahman Lipon, Shahman Moishan, Amit Chowdhury, Asiq Rahman Leon and Kazi Tamanna Haque Sigma from Bangladesh. Students of NSD India and other participant countries from Asia Pacific region took part in the workshops.

Shahman Moishan, an Assistant Professor of the department, presented two papers titled "What is Asian strength in contemporary performance practices?" and "Role of the text in contemporary theatre practice" at two international seminars October 22 and 23 at the NSD premises, where all international delegates were present.



Rizia Parveen with a new surprise

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rizia Parveen is a noted singer who has done over 600 playback songs. She continues to go strong down the musical path, and there is no stopping her. Currently the artiste is busy with stage shows, live television performances, as well as music albums. For her new album, the singer has completed eight songs already.

The yet to be titled album marks her 24th, which is a testament to her prolific career. The artiste has chosen to slow her pace and give the new project ample time and attention. "I can only say that I am offering a big surprise to listeners," said a guarded Rizia.

When asked about what listeners can expect, the artiste replied, "There will be melody songs as well as songs that reflect on our realities. I have also included tracks that this generation will enjoy hearing. I can only say that it will be released on Valentine's Day next year."

Rizia Parveen's first solo album, titled "Prem", debuted in 1993.

Baul evening "Bhab Toronge" in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

An enthralling evening of baul songs, involving young baul artistes was held at the town's Advocate Tareque Smriti auditorium on Sunday evening.

Jalal Chetona Parishad Mymensingh, an organisation in memory of Jalal Uddin Khan, a baul artiste and composer of Mymensingh region, organised the programme titled "Bhab Toronge".

Jalal Khan was born at village Ashodhati on April 24 in Kendua upazila of Netrakona in 1894. He started his career as baul in 1922 and composed some 500 songs, still now widely sung by baul artistes of the country. A volume of his songs was published. He died on May 31 in 1972.

Country's prominent baul artistes Shafi Mondol, Sunil Karmaker and Emon Talukder performed at the evening. The young baul artistes also rendered baul songs in chorus.

Earlier, the parishad conducted a four-day workshop on songs of Jalal Khan and Lalon Shah at Mymensingh Zila Shilpakala Academy auditorium from October 18-21.

Some 52 young baul artistes from Mymensingh took part in the workshop, facilitated by Shafi Mondol and Emon Talukder.

Among others, district cultural officer Arzu Parves was present at the concluding ceremony with Sarwar Kamal Robin, president of the parishad in the chair.

Certificates were distributed among the participants.

