

WHAT'S ON

17th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: December 1-31
Time: 11am-8pm



Int'l Group Art Exhibit
Venue: Gallery Cosmos, New DOHS, Mohakhali
Date: Nov 27-Dec 26
Time: 12noon-8pm



Int'l Short & Independent Film Fest
Venue: Public Library, National Museum, BSA, Bishwo Shahitto Kendro, Jagannath University
Date: Dec 03-10
Time: 12noon-8pm



Solo Print exhibition
Title: Deep Print
Artist: Wakilur Rahman
Venue: Gallery Twenty One, 751 Salmajid Rd, Dhanmondi
Date: Nov 29-Dec 16
Time: 12noon-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: An Untimely Story
Artist: Manjurul Shibly
Venue: La Galerie, AFD
Date: Dec 02-10
Time: 3-9pm (Mon-Thurs), 9am-12noon and 5-8pm (Fri-Sat)



KHALIL

Second death anniversary of the silver screen baddie



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is exactly two years since Khalil Ullah Khan, known best as Khalil, left us. On his second death anniversary, one cannot help but remember the life of the quintessential menacing villain of the silver screen.

After an initial start in theatre, Khalil, with his trademark classy, baritone voice, starred in Pakistan's first colour film – Zahir Raihan's "Sangam" – and became a successful lead actor, working in 11 films, before being detached from the filmworld for a while as Urdu films saw a decline in the erstwhile East Pakistan in the late 1960s. But after Bangladesh's liberation, he revived his career through films such as "Utshorgo" and "Ekhan Akash Neel". He also ventured into the small screen, most notably in "Sangsaptak" and "Bhangoner Shobdo Shuni", and appeared in numerous adverts as well.

Spending his childhood in Sylhet, Khalil's love for acting had blossomed early. He was given his job as an Ansar officer back in 1977 – a year after he'd won the National Film Award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role for "Gunda" – and served the force with integrity. But he continued to work in films: be it as the heroine's rich father or the kingpin of a notorious gang.

Khalil never meant to be a professional actor, and began acting only to make ends meet when he was unemployed. But with his sincerity and discipline, he took Bangla cinema to a different height. The actor had been suffering from various old-age complications for long. He had fallen critically ill a year before he received the Lifetime Achievement Honours at the National Film Awards 2012.

His unique voice, square jaw and cold gaze will remain etched on the minds of film lovers and serve as a perennial source of inspiration for generations of actors to come.

OTHOI

A 'cinematic theatre' experience

Indian troupe Natadha at BotTala Rongomela

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Shakespeare's "Othello" is a timeless literary masterpiece, and what makes any work 'timeless' is its unending appeal to the audience, and inspiration to generations of creative minds. Natadha, the reputed theatre troupe from Howrah, West Bengal (India) put on display the timelessness of "Othello" in their own theatrical adaptation titled "Othoi" on the fifth day of the BotTala Rongomela Theatre Festival in the capital's Mohila Samiti on Monday.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSEHD

Before the play, however, BotTala honoured a veteran thespian from Sylhet – Krishnakumari Sinha, as part of their festival's programme to honour one theatre activist from each division. Professor Syed Jamil Ahmed of Dhaka University's Theatre & Performance Studies department handed over the honours to Sinha.

Because it is based on "Othello", there isn't anything in the story of "Othoi" that would be new to any connoisseur of literature and theatre. Set in a small village named Bhinsura and modeling the characters to fit in the backdrop are the tweaks to the original story that were done. But what made the play thoroughly enjoyable is the approach to the storytelling, and the aesthetic elements. Despite the production being far longer in duration than the Bangladeshi audience is used to, almost the entire house sat through the play up to the end, till 10pm. The play gets the audience to connect to it almost immediately with superb use of the fourth-wall-breaking narrator, and doesn't get boring despite its runtime. The use of dialogues and background music has a strong cinematic flavor, at times bordering on Tollywood-level cheesy (especially with one choreography piece that can only be described as an 'item number') but ultimately staying clear of that line. The stage is also used very much like a filming set, constantly changing, as is the off-changing costumes making it more believable as a story. The

use of props and lighting is spot on in most parts, and the overall production design is almost airtight.

But all of that are secondary in a play – it's the cast that makes or breaks that play, and that is where "Othoi" is outstanding: Arna Mukherjee (who has written and directed the play, along with music direction) is a rising star of Bangla theatre across the border, and his character of the titular Othoi is flanked by Anirban Bhattacharay (who plays 'Anugro, the shadow role of Iago) and Turna Das (who plays Diamona, Desdemona's reflection from the original). Anirban and Turna are two of the highest-rated stage actors of the current generations in India, and with able support from the supporting cast -- most notably Arpan Ghoshal playing Mukul and Upabela Pal as Mili – the acting is top-notch.

The regular Rongo Adda (Q&A with the director) also took place following the play, after Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor handed the memento of the festival to troupe members.

The 10-day BotTala Rongomela theatre festival began on December 1 and will close on December 10, staging plays by troupes from Bangladesh, India and Iran, along with various cultural events on the sidelines. The festival is supported by the Cultural Affairs Ministry, EMK Center, Prime Bank and Dhaka Bank.

17TH AAB 2016

International Art Camp ends today at KEPZ

ZAHANGIR ALOM, writes from Chittagong

As part of the 17th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh (AABB), Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) in collaboration with Youngone Corporation has organized an international art camp from December 5 to December 7 at the KEPZ, one of the world's most environment-friendly industrial zones.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor inaugurated the art camp as chief guest yesterday. Farooq Sobhan, renowned art collector and former foreign secretary of Bangladesh; Samju Kwak, Councilor and Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Dhaka; eminent artists Samarjit Roy Chowdhury (Bangladesh) and Dhiraj Chowdhury (India) and Jahangir Saadat, President of KEPZ, were present as special guests. Eminent artists Rafiqun Nabi and Hashem Khan, and art critic/environmentalist Professor Nazrul Islam also spoke at the event.

This is the first time such an international art camp is taking place in Bangladesh, where 19 eminent artists from six different countries -- Bangladesh, India, China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka are taking part.

"This international art camp is a great initiative of 17th



Participants at the Art Camp.

PHOTO: STAR

Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh. We are determined to promote curatorial jobs just after finishing the biennale so that the next biennale can display the best artworks of the world," said Asaduzzaman Noor.

"Both Korean and Bangladeshis have an immense passion for art and culture. Culture represents an international language and helps people communicate with each other. I

would like to emphasise that Korea would be cultural fellow of Bangladesh and will continue to share their love for art and culture," said Samju Kwak.

"I had a dream of holding such an international art camp in Bangladesh. I proposed it to the authority of KEPZ and they agreed to hold the art camp here. The more artistic exchanges and interactions will happen, the more we can enrich ourselves," said Professor Eunus, the member secretary of the Art Camp.

"I am mesmerised by the nature and greenery of Bangladesh. The art camp is being held on the lap of nature. The ambience is amazing with regard to the interexchange between the artists and nature," said Professor Toyomi Hoshina, member of primary artwork selection committee of the Biennale.

Apart from the three-day art camp, there are artists' talks by the participating artists and cultural programmes by local artistes. Each artist will create two paintings, which will be exhibited in the next edition of the biennale.

Since its inception from 1981, Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh has become a major international art event bringing together artists and contemporary artworks of the world.



"Local dialects are not a problem for me" ... Tareen

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Glamorous actress of the small screen, Tareen is busy with several TV plays. After all, she is very much popular among the audience and maintains her stronghold in showbiz.

At present, she is doing a serial named "Hatkola" under the direction of Brindaban Das. Shot in Gazipur's Pubail, she plays a character named Meherjan. For the serial she needed to learn the local dialect of Pabna.

"Usually, I don't do a TV serial if its plot is not worthwhile, but here the script and characters of 'Hatkola' really impressed me," said the actress.

Regarding Pabna's local dialect, Tareen said she did not face any major problem in delivering her dialogues in the local language.

Plays can be made in any local language and artistes always should be ready for the challenge, she said.

According to the director's sources, the play will be telecast on a private TV channel soon and its name might also be changed.

Meanwhile, Tareen's latest serial "Sunflower" is on air. She worked with Apurbo in the play under the direction of Nazrul Islam Khan.

The artiste also said she is going to act in a new drama serial soon.

TV WATCH

"Neer Khojey Gangchil" hits 500 episodes



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The landmark The five hundredth episode of popular TV play "Neer Khojey Gangchil" will air tonight on ATN Bangla. Directed and scripted by Mohan Khan, the play has been a viewer favourite since its first airing. The five hundredth episode will be aired at 11:25pm. Starring cast members include Azizul

Hakim, Mir Sabbir, Shahed Sharif, Nader Chowdhury, Chandni, Nawshween, Tanvir Hossain Probal, Sabbir Ahmed, Nazneen Chumki, Sazu Khadem, DA Tayeb, Kalyan Corraya, Sababa Mohan and many more.

Mohan Khan, a well-known director in TV plays, telefilms as well as television serials, says he has never directed a play beyond seven episodes. "Neer Khojey Gangchil" also marks the director's first intensive directorial project.

Int'l Short and Independent Film Festival underway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fourteenth International Short and Independent Film Festival Bangladesh is underway in six venues in the capital. Today's schedule of the fifth day at the main auditorium of the National Museum will showcase two films directed by Garin Nugroho, "Bird-man Tale" (2002) at 4pm, and "Of Love and Eggs" (2004) at 7pm. The weeklong festival is also being held two venues at Rajshahi from December 3-6.

The festival is organised by Bangladesh Short Film Forum (BSFF), where more than 500 films from 109 participating countries have been selected. The awards given are in four categories: Best International Fiction, Best International Documentary, Network for Asian Cinema and Tarek Shaharier Best Independent Short.

