

WHAT'S ON

Ekushey Book Fair
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan
Date: February 1-28
Time: 3-8pm

Chobi Mela IX
Title: Transition
Venue: BSA Art Gallery, Northbrook Hall, BAFA, Beauty Boarding
Date: February 3-16

CHOBIMELA 2017
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY BANGLADESH

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Beautiful Bengal
Artist: Mokhesur Rahman
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-7, Rd-13 (New), Dhanmondi
Date: Jan 28-Feb 10
Time: 3-8pm

Street Theatre Festival
Organiser: BGTF
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar
Date: Jan 31-Feb 7
Time: 4pm onwards

Group Print Exhibition
Chhapai Chhobi-3
Venue: Galleri Kaya
Date: Jan 28-Feb 10
Time: 11am-7:30pm



INDIA ART FAIR

Pushing the boundaries

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, *New Delhi*

Emerging and established artists and galleries in South Asia and promoting cultural discourse in the region will be the main focus of the ninth edition of the India Art Fair that began here on February 2.

The three-day fair will continue to nurture global interest in South Asian arts with a renewed focus on showcasing established and emerging artists and galleries from the region on the international platform, according to the organiser of India Art Fair.

With participating galleries like Britto Arts Trust from Dhaka, Nepal Art Council from Kathmandu, Theertha International Artists' Collective from Colombo and Blueprint 12 from New Delhi, the fair seeks to promote cultural discourse in South Asia with conversations between collectors from India and across the globe.

The Fair will feature both longstanding representatives of Indian art and new exhibitors from around the globe who are keen to develop relationships with the Indian art market, including Kalfayan Galleries (Athens), Grey Noise (Dubai), 1x1 Gallery (Dubai), Sabrina Amrani (Madrid), PhotoInk (New Delhi), TARQ (Mumbai) and Lukas Feichtner Galerie (Vienna) showing a breadth of contemporary art practices.

An extensive 'Art Projects programme' spanning the outdoor and indoor fair space will also be a major focus of the fair this year, during which 16 specially-curated art projects by artists like Sudarshan Shetty, Reena Saini Kallat, Avinash Veeraraghavan, Rathin Barman, Parul Gupta, Kanu Gandhi and Hemant Sreekumar among others, will be presented.

The fair will also unveil a new space 'Vernacular in Flux', curated by Annapurna Garimella, which will present a rich showcase of vernacular art with a focus on Gond, Madhubani and Mysore painting.

The fair will also explore the intersection between filmmaking and the visual arts in India from the 1960s to the present day, in its 'Art on Film' programme. The initiative will see filmmakers and artists working across different genres to push the boundaries of their respective media.

Nasir Ali Mamun's "The Poet with Camera" opens at Chobi Mela

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Nasir Ali Mamun is the pioneer portrait photographer of Bangladesh. Born on 1st July 1953 in Dhaka, he has captivated viewers with his iconic portraits for almost five decades, and is said to have made history with his camera. He and pioneer female photographer Sayeeda Kanam have been declared as the Lifetime Achievement recipients at the ninth edition of Chobi Mela 2017 held from February 3. The organisers of Chobi Mela IX formally conferred awards on them at the opening ceremony yesterday at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA).

In a candid conversation with Nasir Ali Mamun on that day at BSA, the visual artist gave a tour around the exhibition. It was a wonderful experience as he elaborated on the exhibited photos with the exact date and time.

"The Poet with Camera" is the title of the exhibition that displays 42 works at Gallery 4 of National Art Gallery Plaza of BSA. This is a limited edition of Mamun's first decade's (1972-1982) works. A wall of the gallery has been dedicated to Mamun who shared memorable moments with eminent personalities like Mother Teresa, National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Mawlana Bhashani, Palli Kabi Jasimuddin, artist SM Sultan, Subhash Mukhopadhyay, Shahabuddin Ahmed, Quamrul Hassan, Professor Qazi Motahar Hossain, Oscar winning director Shekhar Kapoor, Prabhat Kumar Mukhopadhyay, singer Bhupen Hazarika, Russian poet Evgeniy Yavtushenko and others. The wall also showcases Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus's sketched depiction of Mamun's camera, Mamun with his first camera, his first solo exhibit at Bangla Academy, a letter to Mamun by litterateur Selina Hossain and Mamun's portraits and paintings by legendary SM Sultan, Jogen Chowdhury, Shahabuddin Ahmed, Quamrul Hassan and others.

There are many other historic and momentous images on display at the gallery. They include a unique image of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, ASM Abdur Rob, Poets -- Ahsan Habib, Shamsur Rahman, Syed Shamsul Haq, Al Mahmud, classical vocalist Ustad Gul Mohammad, Professor Mohammad Yunus, legendary musician Samar Das, artist Hamidur Rahmn, Khan Mohammad Moinuddin, a fabulous image of actor Golam Mustafa, actress Subarna Mustafa, Abdul Hafiz and Mahmuda Khatun Siddiqua and others.

No addition, editing and cropping have been done in the displayed photos, according to Mamun. There are several portraits and self portraits of Nasir Ali Mamun at the show. There is another great image of Ustad Bahadur Hossain Khan, Poet Shamsur Rahman and Nasir Ali Mamun.

There are several rare images of S M Sultan. Mamun has a close connection with the maestro. "His unique lifestyle and such a simple and candid soul is rare to find in the entire subcontinent. Such an artist is unmatched with others in the world. Sultan's paintings give a feeling of bird's eye view. He observed the society, agricultural civilisation of Bengal well. So a vastness is noticeable in his paintings. The background, foreground and middle composition of Sultan's painting have many things to delineate. He prominently upheld the agro-based civilisation in his paintings. I am deeply mesmerised and motivated by his personality, artistic thoughts and creations by Sultan," said Nasir Ali Mamun.

The soft spoken and modest Mamun is also considered to be "The Poet of Camera" for his creativity and capturing the times and towering personalities.

Kamal Ahmed wins over Indian Tagore aficionados

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tagore singer Kamal Ahmed recently gave lauded performances in Kolkata. First, he was invited to perform for Tara TV's popular live programme "Aj Shokaler Amontron-e". Later, he performed at the National Poetry Festival and New Town Book Fair, Kolkata and Kalpatorur Mela. The singer also gave a spontaneous performance at another programme organised by All India Women's Conference.

For "Aj Shokaler Amontron-e," Ahmed chose to perform lesser known Tagore songs. His opening performance, "Amar Sur-e Lagey Tomar Hashi" created a buzz among Tagore enthusiasts, resulting in a surge of phone calls for song requests. The artiste later performed several songs including "Nishi Na Pohatey," "Tomaye Gaan Shonabo," "Asha Jawar Poth-er Dhar-e," "Dinguli Mor," "Ei Udashi Hawar" and "Bhora Thaak Smriti Shudhaye."

The singer was also appreciated at a programme arranged for National Poetry Festival and New Town Book Fair, Kolkata. At Kalpatorur Mela, Ahmed received accolades and inspiring words from eminent Tagore singer Swagatalakshmi Dasgupta.

The artiste's renditions at Kalpatorur Mela made the organisers of All India Women's Conference spontaneously arrange another programme where Ahmed performed.

Though he dons the hat of director (External Service) in Bangladesh Betar, Ahmed is a passionate singer. Apart from Rabindra Sangeet, he practices songs of three poets. Various audio labels have published 15 albums by the artiste. His latest album "Mohakabeyr Kobi," under the banner of Raga Music, India, features 12 original songs as a tribute to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Fazlul Haque Khan has composed lyrics while Mohammad Shahnewaz and Badrul Alam Bokul have worked on the tracks for the album.



"Bhanu Sundari" staged in M'singh
An adaptation of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet"

AMINUL ISLAM, *Mymensingh*

"Bhanu Sundari", a pala (folk theatre) based on the story of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" was staged recently at Circuit House Gymnasium.

Onnesha Theatre, a leading theatre troupe staged the play, adapted and directed by Sayik Siddiquee. It was the 10th staging of the play, and was staged marking the end of the three-day Mymensingh Digital innovation Fair.

Sayik said the play, based on the ever-green love story by Shakespeare, was presented using local dialects of Netrakona and Kishoreganj.

"The play was staged in popular pala style, a famous



cultural form of Mymensingh region," said Sayik.

The cast included Sayik Siddiquee, Samiul Haque Akash, Monir Hossain Jibon, Moniruzzaman, Atiqur Rahman, Nusrat Shimu, Misti, Eti, Sadi Shuvo and Ashik.

The play was assisted by a musical ensemble of Gritu Mankin on flute, Al Amin on dhol, Sujon on harmonium and Tushar on kartal.

Earlier, a discussion was held.

Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Md Khalilur Rahman, Mymensingh police superintendent Syed Nurul Islam and adviser of Onnesha Theatre poet Anwara Sultana were present, among others.

Praising the skillful adaptation of the play mingling with local language to make it comprehensible for the common audience, the speakers said such works will benefit cultural heritage of the country.



Eric Clapton Movie to be directed by Oscar-winner Lili Fini Zanuck

Lili Fini Zanuck, the Oscar-winning producer of "Driving Miss Daisy," is to direct documentary feature "Eric Clapton: A Life in 12 Bars," partnering with producer John Battsek, whose credits include Oscar-winners "One Day in September" and "Searching for Sugar Man."

Altitude Film Sales is handling international sales, and Altitude Film Distribution has taken U.K. rights. First footage will be unveiled to buyers at Berlin's European Film Market.

"Clapton's music is the foundation of our film. His commitment to the blues, its traditions and originators, is absolute from his earliest days," said Zanuck, who previously directed 1991 crime drama "Rush." "He was also forever restless in his search of a suitable vehicle to shape and grow his artistic voice, often bewildering fans and the media with sudden changes in musical direction, bands, songs, guitar style, tone and physical appearance."

The film will also examine Clapton's personal life, which is "the emotional spine of the film," Zanuck said. It follows his traumatic childhood through the successes of his musical career, the death of his son in 1991, and domestic happiness a decade later.

"It is indeed a melancholic victory lap, full of nostalgic myth, but always musically potent, always looking to the future," Zanuck said. "Despite the fact that his path is strewn with tragedies, addiction and loss, he never fails to regain his bearings and continue to serve what he holds dearest: his music."

Battsek said: "We have unique access to Clapton's extensive personal archive of classic performance clips, on- and off-stage footage, iconic photos, concert posters, handwritten letters, drawings and personal diary entries — elements with the power to transport audiences to each era, from obsessive student, to peer, to transcendent figure in musical history and one of the greatest guitarists of all time."

The editor on the project is Chris King, who won a BAFTA for "Senna" and whose other credits include "Amy" and "Exit Through the Gift Shop," both of which won American Cinema Editors' EDDIE awards.

Source: **Variety**

Yami Gautam has a dark role in "Sarkar 3"

Actor Yami Gautam says it's no less than an opportunity to play a negative role in her next.

Yami, who has often been referred to as the sweet and charming girl-next-door is all set to break barriers to prove her acting mettle. She will be seen in a grey character in the third installment of Ram Gopal Varma's "Sarkar" film series. "I am sure this role will take away all those adjectives that people are so used to associating with me. That's the whole idea of taking up this role," says Yami.

Talking about how she felt when she was offered a role, Yami recalls, "The moment I was approached, even I had this question, 'Why me?'. The casting director then said that they have all seen me as the pretty and happy-go-lucky girl, so they wanted me to see how it feels to hold a gun and shoot." However, she wasn't instantly convinced to take up the role. "I still had my apprehensions. Later they shot some no-makeup pictures of me, and I was surprised and instantly said yes."

Yami, who was last seen alongside Hrithik Roshan in "Kaabil" portraying the role of a blind girl, says she needed several things to fall into place before she said yes. "You need a director, a script and a role to justify a risk. There may be 10 odd things which I want to do as an actor and we get an opportunity also, but I need to be sure whether the person I am trusting or the role that I am relying on — is it the correct one," she says.

Source: **Hindustan Times**

