

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



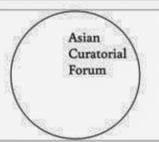
Chobi Mela IX
 Title: Transition
 Venue: BSA Art Gallery, Northbrook Hall, BAFA, Beauty Boarding
 Date: February 3-16

CHOBIMELA 2017
 INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY BANGLADESH

Theatre
 Play: Chekhov and the Seagull
 Troupe: Chekhov Studio, Russia
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
 Date: February 9
 Time: 5:30pm



Asian Curatorial Forum
 Organiser: Bengal Foundation
 Visual Arts program
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: Feb 9-11
 Time: 10:30am-5:30pm



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



NEWS bytes

Lady Gaga to duet with Metallica at Grammys

Lady Gaga will join Metallica onstage at the Grammys this Sunday. On Monday, a Gaga fan site tweeted a snippet of a Grammy promo clip declaring, "Lady Gaga duets with Metallica." Rolling Stone confirmed the collaboration. This is the latest move in an impressive week from Gaga. Following her well-received Super Bowl halftime show on Sunday, she announced that she will tour arenas and stadiums all over the world behind her album "Joanne", which came out last October.



Lady Gaga is a regular performer at the Grammys; she appeared at the ceremony last year to pay tribute to David Bowie. Metallica hasn't been on the show since 2014, when they performed the song "One" with the classical pianist Lang Lang. Their "Hardwired" is nominated for Best Rock Song this year, competing with David Bowie, Radiohead, Twenty One Pilots and Highly Suspect. Metallica and Gaga is one of several star pairings at the upcoming Grammys ceremony. Alicia Keys will also perform with country singer Maren Morris, while the Weeknd will reunite with Starboy collaborators Daft Punk.

Source: Rolling Stone



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

CHOBIMELA IX EXHIBITS Pushpamala's portraits juxtapose Gohar's landscapes

FAHMIM FERDOUS

The ongoing 9th edition Chobi Mela is on at full flow with the theme "Transition", and although the programmes (artist talks, panel discussions and such) ended yesterday, the exhibits are up till February 16 at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and three historic establishments of Old Dhaka – Northbrook Hall, Beauty Boarding and Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA). The first installment of the story (published February 7) featured the four exhibits at Northbrook Hall and Beauty Boarding, and the second installment of the exhibits at Old Dhaka, looks at two contrasting exhibits from India and Iran, a testament of the repute of Asia's first and largest photo festival. Pushpamala N has been called the most 'entertaining' artist-ironicist of contemporary Indian art. A photo and video performance artist, writer, curator and sculptor with a versatile range of collaborators, she specializes in challenging norms and discourse. Her series "Native Women of South India: Manners and Customs (2000-2004)" in collaboration with UK-born photographer Clare Arni is an absolute treat, especially discovering the artistic layers and witty, striking connotations in her 'photo performance' images. The concept is to have a fantasy photo studio with painted sets, props and costumes, challenging the mental image of the quintessential South Indian woman. But that only begins to describe the project: the complex, multi-layered series, put up as an installation as a culmination of four photo series each representing a different genre, is a marvelous interlacing of form

and content. The small CRT TV with a video work using some behind-the-scenes of the project adds a lovely touch, as does the smaller prints, of variations and outtakes – starkly presenting the fact that the photos were all taken on negative film. The unsuspecting spectator may altogether miss the second exhibition, Gohar Dashti's "Iran, Untitled", as this correspondent almost did. Placed at the open back-yard of BAFA, it is an example of sheer curatorial genius. The series of barren landscapes with interesting sets of people and action can be artistically described as 'brief', but thought-provoking, and the placement and set-up – high atop bamboo pillars and printed in massive sizes on PVC sheets – provides a very realistic point-of-view of the scale of the photographs, from the makeshift bamboo benches placed at the end of brick-laden trails. The photos are the artist's attempt to symbolize Iran's political and social picture with the vast open yet unused areas of land along the highways. The curatorial team of Chobi Mela has been doing excellent work consistently in the past few editions to give the artworks the proper exhibition treatment, and this bit of curation is certainly one of the highlights of that. A large number of exhibits – such as "Kanu's Gandhi" by Kanu Gandhi, Donald Weber's "Interrogations", Bruno Boudjelal's "Algeria, Scrapbooks", Boris Eldagsen's "How to Disappear Completely: THE POEMS", Nasir Ali Maun's "The Poet With The Camera", "United Red Army" by Naeem Mohaiemen and "Open Wound" by Stanley Greene are on at the National Art Gallery of BSA, as are the work of this year's Chobi Mela Fellows, but that is a story for another day.

The poetic side of **Putul**
 Singer-TV host publishes second book

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Closeup One star Putul rose to fame with her melodious chords, and has branched out in her career as a television host as well. However the talented artiste is also a poet at heart, and this year her second book of poetry "Putul Kabbo, Ditiyo Oddhaye" has been published at this month's Ekushey Boi Mela. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, Putul elaborates on her writing ventures:



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

When did you begin writing?
 Putul: I began writing from an early age, ever since I started singing. Initially I used to compose lyrics, before delving into poetry. When I was in eighth or ninth grade, I discovered a passion for reading poetry as well as writing. I grew up reading poems of Rabindranath Tagore, Jibanananda Das, Buddhadeb Basu and Humayun Azad, to name a few.
What was the name of your first book?
 Putul: My first book was titled "Putul Kabbo, Upokromonika," and was published by Priyo Mukh.
Where do you find inspiration in writing poetry?
 Putul: When writing a song, you cannot express all your feelings and thoughts, and have to leave things out as lyric composition is a more streamlined writing. However, in poetry, there is more freedom in elaboration and that is where my interest in writing poems stems from. My poetry is inspired by the everyday situations people encounter in life and the society they live in, as well as the love and losses we face throughout the years. My poetry is a culmination of my most innermost thoughts regarding a myriad of issues.

CHEKHOV STUDIO IN DHAKA
 Russian classics to be staged at BSA



Speakers with troupe members at the press conference.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prominent Russian theatre troupe Chekhov Studio, attached to the museum estate of iconic Russian dramatist Anton Chekhov, is all set to perform at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) today and tomorrow. Under the joint initiative of BSA and the Russian Embassy in Dhaka, and on invitation from the Cultural Affairs Ministry, Chekhov Studio will perform "Chekhov and Seagull" based Chekhov's play "Seagull" at the open premises and National Theatre Hall of BSA at 5:30pm today (February 9), and Chekhov's comedy play "The Bear" at the Experimental Theatre Hall. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor will inaugurate the programme at the BSA Nandan Mancha at 5:30pm today. Russian Ambassador Alexander I Ignatov along with Dean of Russian University of Theatre Arts, Professor Vladimir Baicher will also be present. A press conference in this regard was held at the seminar room of BSA yesterday.



Arshad Warsi excited for third Munna Bhai film

Arshad Warsi is excited to be a part of the third film in the Munna Bhai franchise, with the actor describing its script is "so relevant and funny".

looks for. He likes a good thought and then weaves a beautiful story around it." After "Lage Raho...", Hirani had started working on "Munnabhai Chale America", but it hit a roadblock as the team was apparently not too happy with the script and the 48-year-old actor says someone should make that film. "That (Munnabhai Chale America) was another fabulous script. It had such funny and emotional moments. It was unbelievable. Raju is very dedicated to his work. He works so hard but if it's not coming along well, he will drop it. He had a problem with the second half of the film. I wish somebody should make it. Or they should just go back, rework and make it. That was just a beautiful script." Arshad is currently awaiting the release of his latest project, "Irada". The Aparnaa Singh-directed film, also featuring Naseeruddin Shah and Divya Dutta, will hit screens on February 17.

"Munna Bhai MBBS" was released in 2003 followed by its sequel, "Lage Raho Munna Bhai" in 2006. Now, 11 years after the sequel, Arshad is all set to reprise his role as 'Circuit' to Sanjay Dutt's affable Munna in the Rajkumar Hirani directed comedy-drama. "It (the film) is so relevant to today's times. It's so beautiful. It's in the same space. It's funny, emotional and has a message which, if people really listen to, we will have a better place to live in," Arshad told PTI. Heaping praise on Hirani, Arshad said, "It's good that Raju told everybody about this. It's nice. It will be great fun. It's a great script. The thought is beautiful. That's what Raju

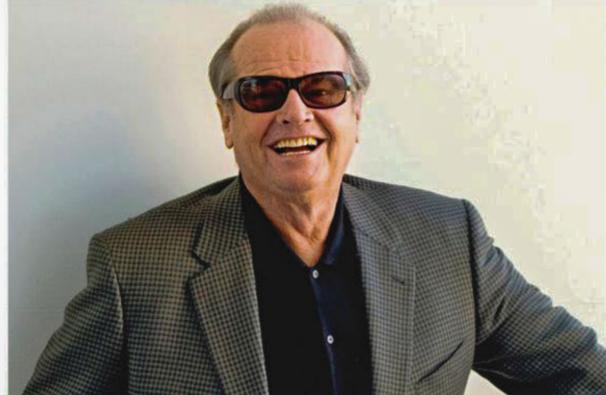
Source: Hindustan Times

Jack Nicholson returning to acting
 Kristen Wiig to co-star in "Toni Erdmann" remake

It's been about seven years since screen acting legend Jack Nicholson lent his talents to a film, but the actor has finally found a project to lure him out of his semi-retirement: a remake of the hit German comedy "Toni Erdmann". The film centres on an eccentric father (played by Peter Simonischek in the original), who surprises his workaholic daughter (Sandra Hüller) with an extended visit, and assumes the persona of his titular alter ego, a costumed smooth-talking life coach with a goofy wig and fake teeth.



Kristen Wiig will star opposite Nicholson in the role of the daughter. Directed by Maren Ade, the nearly three-hour comedy is nominated for best foreign film at the Oscar and best non-English language film at the BAFTAs. Variety reported that Ade will executive produce the remake, along with



producers Jonas Dornbach and Janine Jackowski. Adam McKay, Will Ferrell and Jessica Elbaum for Paramount and Gloria Sanchez Productions. Nicholson's last film appearance was a supporting role in James L Brook's comedy "How Do You Know", and his last leading role was in the 2007 comedy "The Bucket List". According to the report, the three-time Oscar winner enjoyed "Toni Erdmann" so much, he approached Paramount's Brad Grey with the idea for a remake and Grey immediately went to work snatching up the rights. Source: Collider