

WHAT'S ON

Photography Exhibition
 Title: London 1971: Unsung Heroes of the Bangladesh Liberation War
 Venue: British Council
 Date: March 3-31

Bengal Sangskriti Utshab
 Organiser: Bengal Foundation
 Venue: AMA Muthith Sports Complex, Sylhet
 Date: Feb 22-Mar 3
 Time: 4pm onwards

Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: Journey & Images
 Artist: Ranjit Das
 Venue: Galleri Kaya
 Date: March 12-25
 Time: 11am-8pm

Solo Photography Exhibition
 Title: Here, For Now
 Photographer: Hadi Uddin
 Venue: Kala Kendra, Mohammadpur
 Date: Feb 25-Mar 22; Time: 5pm-8pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: Poetry of Darkness
 Artist: Rashedul Huda
 Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka
 Date: Feb 24-Mar 7
 Time: 3pm-9pm

Painting Exhibition
 Bangabandhu Bangladesh
 Organiser: BSA & Samata Sonarga
 Venue: National Art Gallery, BSA
 Date: March 4-17
 Time: 11am-8pm

Upholding diverse aspects of Bangladeshi culture

Bengal Sangskriti Utshab Sylhet 2017 ends today

ZAHANGIR ALOM, writes from Sylhet

In an attempt to showcase the diverse elements and aspects of Bangladeshi culture, the 10-day (February 22-March 3) Bengal Sangskriti Utshab Sylhet 2017, organised by Bengal Foundation, has many things to offer. Cultural enthusiasts of Sylhet thoroughly enjoyed performances of varied songs, instrumental recitals, dance, recitation, theatre and film. Besides, the grand scale festival has an art camp participated by prominent and promising Bangladeshi artists, a craft fair displaying the traditional crafts of Bangladesh, a literary conference (that ended on February 26) and a display of traditional musical instruments and architectural designs and maps of Sylhet and Dhaka.

The vivacious presence and musical performances by both Bangladeshi and Indian artistes at Hason Raja Mancha seemingly inspire artists to depict their paintings. Artistes of the Academy of

Manipuri Culture and Arts set off the eighth day's (March 1) proceedings with displaying several Manipuri dance pieces.

Versatile singer Priyanka Gope began her performance of raga based Bangla songs with a Shipra Basu classic "Jamuna Ki Bolte Pare" after which "Nayone Nayone Keno Nayon Rakho" followed. The

colours and connotations of Spring was evident in the rendition of her next two songs "Bosone Lagate Rong" and "Dokhino Batas Aji Bohe Mridu Monde".

Priyanka then performed a Begum Akhtar song "Phiraye Dio Na Mor-e" and several original songs -- "Etodin Pore Tomaye", "Ekhon Tokhon" and "Sur-e Sur-e

Dekha Hobe". Renowned Tagore singer Bulbul Islam superbly offered several Tagore songs from various parjaye. The singer started off with a Swadesh paryae song "O Amar Desh-er Mati". Bulbul Islam performed the songs -- "Akash Bhora Surjo Tara", "Amar Mallika Bon-e", "Bhalobashi Bhalobashi" and "Krishnakoli". The artiste also presented the melodic essence of a Tagore poem "Dui Pakhi" at the festival.

Noted Indian singer Jayati Chakraborty captivated the audience with her performance of Rabindra Sangeet together with adhunik and folk songs at the event. She set off with a Tagore song "Tomaye Gaan Shonabo" and received rounds of applause with performing songs like "Bhalo Achhi Bhalo Theko" and "Mon Majhi Rey Sohag Chand Bashe Jamunaye". Jayati's presentation of a Goalpara folk song "Mahut Bondhu Rey" was a treat to the music lovers. She was effortless in

her performance of a Jhumur song, and a Radharaman Dutta number "Bhromor Koiyo Giya" as she offered Tagore songs -- "Sakhi Bhabona Kaharey Bol-e", "Bhalobeshe Sakhi" and "Tumi Kon Kanoner Phul". The singer also rendered the adhunik songs -- "Tumi Je Amar" and "Tomake Bolbo Kichhu Na Bola Kotha" and wrapped up her performance with a Pratul Mukhopadhyay song "Ami Banglaye Gaan Gai".

The festival, dedicating to Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq, concludes today. A symposium on architecture titled "Agamir Sylhet" starts this morning at 10:30am. Renowned architects of Bangladesh will take part in the symposium as panelists while the musical performance will start at 4pm at Hason Raja Mancha. Alongside, film screening will begin at 4pm and staging of a theatre production "Mohajon-er Nao" by Subachan Natya Sangsad will commence at 7:15pm at Syed Mujtaba Ali Mancha.



Jayati Chakraborty performs at the festival; (above) Manipuri dancers present a group piece.

PHOTO: SHEKH MEHEDI MORSHED



"Playing differently-abled characters helped me discover myself"
 ...Hrithik Roshan

Be it his action-packed avatars in "Dhoom 2" and "Krrish", or the differently-abled characters in "Koi Mil Gaya", "Guzaarish" and the recently released "Kaabil", Hrithik Roshan has essayed all his roles with panache. While each film has earned him accolades, the actor says that playing differently-abled characters has had a deeper impact on his life. For example, Hrithik's portrayal of Rohan Bhatnagar in Sanjay Gupta's "Kaabil" is being counted among his finest performances so far. However, the superstar says that box-office success and appreciation are not his only takeaways from the movie. "I am glad that the film has done well, but as actors, we also look for something more permanent than a good collection at the ticket counters. I was going through a difficult phase while shooting for it. I needed to fight my limitations in order to portray the character." Hrithik adds, "I gained an invaluable understanding during the course of 'Kaabil'. I realised for the first time that the phrase, 'differently-abled', is not just a polite word for addressing the disabled; they are actually differently abled. I didn't play Rohan as a visually challenged guy; I played a man who believes in himself. My way of seeing them has changed forever." Call it a coincidence, but there's a common thread between Rohan, Rohit ("Koi Mil Gaya") and Ellen Mascarenhas ("Guzaarish") — they are all emotionally intelligent. The actor elaborates, "Perhaps I connect with these characters at some level. I have had my share of struggles with my physical self. I stumbled as a kid and I know how socially awkward and debilitating it can get. It is a coincidence that I have played so many differently-abled characters, but my directors have helped me each time."

Source: TOI

Salahuddin Zaki returns with "Hena"

Afzal-Tareen pair up after two years

A CORRESPONDENT

Acclaimed director Syed Salahuddin Zaki, who has produced classics such as "Ghuddi", "Ayna Bibir Pala", "Lal Benarasi", is now directing a tele-film after a seven year sabbatical, which will bring Afzal Hossain and Tareen together on screen after two years. The tele-film, titled "Hena", is also scripted by Zaki, and will mark Tareen's first time teaming up with the director.

Filming for the tele-film commenced in Gazipur on February 27.

"I am back to directing after seven years. When I was writing the script for the play, Tareen's face kept floating into view in my mind. Afzal is like family to me, and he has acted in three of my ventures previously," said the director.

Afzal Hossain, who was previously cast in "Borof", "Akash Kushum" and "Dodhichi", expressed his readiness at being cast in another Salahuddin Zaki project. "I have found great fulfillment as an actor in all the productions directed by Zaki. There is always something new to learn from him. Tareen is an exceptional actor who has grown in her career right before my eyes. I am delighted to be working with her."

"Since I was quite young, I have heard many stories of Salahuddin Zaki from Faridi, Suborna Mustafa and Afzal Hossain. Everyone has the same thing to say, that there is so much to learn from working with him. Zaki Uncle is back to work after many years, and he has chosen to work with me — words cannot express the honour I feel about this."

The director informed that "Hena" will be ready to air soon on a private TV channel.



Celebrities share their thoughts on TDS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star has turned 26. Like many others in the cultural fraternity, celebrities Shamim Ara Nipa and Adil Hossain Noble speak in glowing terms about the newspaper.

Shamim Ara Nipa, dancer and choreographer
 As I am a performer and dance exponent, I am more critical of cultural news. The Daily Star provides excellent coverage on the cultural aspect of our country, illustrated with good photography. They even give importance to the various cultural activities in other regions of the country, which is very important and a sign of excellent journalism. This is a big achievement and something you don't quite see in other papers of our country, whose entertainment pages are sadly half-filled with celebrity, film and music news from abroad. Again this is where The Daily Star distinctively differs, and I am very satisfied with their journalistic practices. However, I do have one thing to say — I would like more coverage on rural cultural activities, as they have cultural practices which are distinct from one another, and therefore must be preserved and celebrated. I do understand there are constraints on space, but if they could find a different platform to do so, it would be a great service.

Adil Hossain Noble, actor and model
 "The Daily Star is the paper at our house — it is what I have been reading for ages and now I insist my kids to read the paper at least every week, if not every day. The Daily Star has stood true to its motto over the years, and they have been carrying on without fear, or favour. I have learned many things about the world from here, and I am sure this has been true for millions in our nation."

