

BIRTHDAY FELICITATIONS FOR RUNA LAILA!

Artistes celebrate singer's special day



A CORRESPONDENT

Modern Bangla music is diverse, but despite the diversity of artistes and genres, the world can agree on one thing: Runa Laila is a singing legend. To this day, young, promising artistes aspire to achieve her fame and status, and her contribution in Bangladesh's music industry is widely revered in South Asia. Today marks the multi-award winning singer's birthday, who recognised her destiny in music from a tender age.

Born to parents Emdad Ali and Amina Laila, the singer has stated that as a child, she aspired to earn through singing in order to help the less fortunate - a promise she made sure to keep. Today she is involved with various charity organisations throughout the globe.

A faraway look is in her eyes when she reminisces about birthday celebrations during her childhood. "I used to get excited long before my birthday. It was so special, that my parents and my sisters used to have a new outfit ready for me at the dressmakers' to mark the day. And then my friends would come pouring into my house, and the cake would be cut together. Today my birthdays are celebrated in the presence of all my loved ones at home," she remembers.

"For as long as I live, I would like to devote my life to all those that love me through music, and carry Bangladesh to even greater heights," she added.

For a singer of such stature, birthdays bring in a plethora of felicitations and well wishes from great figures and fans alike. "Runa Laila is exactly how a singer should be in terms of talent and personality. She has always been steadfast and dedicated to her work, and such a person is sure to be humble. If she was ever late by even a few minutes, she would be profusely contrite. I wish her the happiest birthday," said renowned music director-composer Alami Khan.

Renowned singer Andrew Kishore also extended his birthday greetings, saying, "I wish Runa Laila a very happy birthday. A singer of such great measure should have great celebrations going for her."

To commemorate the special day, BTV is airing a special live musical programme titled "Shuprobhaat Bangladesh" at 8:20am today, where Dinat Jahan Munni will perform. Meanwhile, popular singer Konal will grace the morning musical show "Gaane Shokaal Shuru" on Channel i at 7:30am.

Sadikuzzaman's solo exhibition at EMK Center

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A solo art exhibition titled "Reflection of Society in Art" by SK Md. Sadikuzzaman is on at EMK Centre, Dhaka.

Professor Syed Abul Barq Alvi inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest. Professor Md. Aloptogin Tusher, Chairman, Department of Fine Arts, Jagannath University; MK Aaref, Director EMK Centre and Mustafizur Rahman, Cricketer, Bangladesh National Cricket Team, attended the inaugural ceremony as special guests.

Sadikuzzaman has created artworks inspired by surrounding situations and contexts. He has incorporated his own emotions and feelings in his works. The concepts of the subjects he has chosen for his paintings are also related to our surrounding environment and reality. The socially-conscious artist presents his artworks in quite a romantic style. The forms he depicts in the paintings carry symbolic meanings. Through his works, he has tried to present an allegorical approach of present day society.

The idea of using forms in his artwork is

taken mainly from mushrooms. Just like parasites or algae develop themselves being dependent on others and survive challenges in storms and other calamities, mushrooms are also seen to be born in dejected places, garbage, and continue living in their own way. Though soft, they fight and survive by struggling in difficult environment.

"Through my work, I have symbolised human beings with the forms of mushrooms. There are many people in our society who are like mushrooms," said the artist. The artist is conscious about environmental issues like global warming. Portraying cracks on the surface of earth, he reveals the adverse effects of global warming. Through his "Rape Victim" series, he has voiced the plight of rape victims around the world, showing how they are facing the cruelty in society.

Sadik's paintings portray love, compassion and a strong will to survive against a challenging environment and herald a beautiful future.

The exhibition is open from 10am to 8pm daily except Fridays till November 25.



Shilpo Probha celebrates fifth anniversary

A CORRESPONDENT

Quarterly art magazine Shilpo Probha Anjan Chowdhury was present, along with chief patron of Proyas Soma Haque. Some 44 special-needs children, students of Proyas Specialized School (operated by Bangladesh Army), noted artists and diplomats and art collectors were present.

A total of 76 artworks by Proyas School and famed artists were displayed and auctioned at the exhibition.

STAR MELODIES' musical soiree tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Star Melodies, The Daily Star's regular initiative to promote Bangla music, will present a special musical soiree highlighting songs lip-synced by Nayak Raj Razzak and renowned singer Abdul Jabbar on November 18, at 6 pm on Saturday at The Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct, The Daily Star Centre.

The programme will feature songs by promising artistes -- Raja Bashir, Aloke Sen, Muhin Khan and Tanjina Karim Swaralipi. Sadya Afreen Mallick, Editor, Arts & Entertainment, The Daily Star, will compere the event.

Mahbub-ur Rahman, Deputy CEO and Country Head of Commercial Banking HSBC Bangladesh, will assist in the planning of the event.

Simantic Creative Concern will assist in the programme arrangement.

Invitation passes can be collected from The Daily Star Centre.

Seating is provided on first-come-first-served basis, as seats are limited.



ALIA BHATT coming in 'new avatar' in Raazi

Bollywood star Alia Bhatt, who is playing the main lead in Meghna Gulzar's *Raazi*, has said the audience will see her in a completely different avatar in the film. "I think in *Raazi* audience will see me in completely different avatar at least that is my wish because *Raazi* as a film is very different," she said.



Leonardo da Vinci painting shatters auction records

"SALVATOR MUNDI" SELLS FOR \$450.3 MILLION



After 19 minutes of dueling with four bidders on the telephone and one in the room, Leonardo da Vinci's "Salvator Mundi" sold on Wednesday night for \$450.3 million with fees, shattering the high for any work of art sold at auction. It far surpassed Picasso's "Women of Algiers", which fetched \$179.4 million at Christie's in May 2015. The buyer was not immediately disclosed, reports The New York Times.

There were gasps throughout the sale, as the bids climbed by tens of millions up to \$225 million, by fives up to \$260 million, and then by twos. Toward the end, Alex Rotter, Christie's co-chairman of postwar and contemporary art, who represented a buyer on the phone, made two big jumps to shake off one last rival bid from Francis de Poortere, Christie's head of old master paintings.

The price is all the more remarkable at a time when the old masters market is contracting, because of limited supply and collectors' penchant for contemporary art.

There was a palpable air of anticipation at Christie's Rockefeller Center

headquarters as the art market's major players filed into the sales room. Major collectors had traveled here for the sale.

Earlier, 27,000 people had lined up at pre-auction viewings in Hong Kong, London, San Francisco and New York to glimpse the painting of Christ as "Savior of the World". Members of the public cared little if at all whether the painting might have been executed in part by studio assistants; whether Leonardo had actually made the work himself; or how much of the canvas had been repainted and restored. They just wanted to see a masterwork that dates from about 1500 and was rediscovered in 2005.

But many art experts argue that Christie's used marketing window dressing to mask the baggage that comes with the Leonardo, from its compromised condition to its complicated buying history and said that the auction house put the artwork in a contemporary sale to circumvent the scrutiny of old masters experts, many of whom have questioned the painting's authenticity and condition.

"The composition doesn't come from Leonardo," said Jacques Franck, a Paris-based art historian and Leonardo specialist. "He preferred twisted movement. It's a good studio work with a little Leonardo at best, and it's very damaged."

The artwork has been the subject of legal disputes and amassed a price history that ranges from less than \$10,000 in 2005, when it was spotted at an estate auction, to \$200 million when it was first offered for sale by a consortium of three dealers in 2012. But no institution besides the Dallas Museum of Art, which in 2012 made an undisclosed offer on the painting, showed public interest in buying it. Finally, in 2013, Sotheby's sold it privately for \$80 million to Yves Bouvier, a Swiss art dealer and businessman. Soon afterward, he sold it for \$127.5 million, to the family trust of the Russian billionaire collector Dmitry E Rybolovlev. Rybolovlev's family trust was the seller on Wednesday night.

Source: NY Times

"Raazi" is an adaptation of Harinder Sikka's "Calling Sehmat", a novel inspired by the almost-unbelievable real-life story of an Indian spy married to a Pakistani man during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, the 13-day war India fought with Pakistan at the far end of Bangladesh's Liberation War (December 3-16, 1971).

Talking on the sidelines of the Lokmat Maharashtra's Most Stylish Awards in Mumbai on Tuesday, Alia said, "It's the first time I am doing a period film and it is based on true story as well, so I am very excited for it and I hope audience will like it."

Alia plays Sehmat in the film, a woman from Kashmir who marries a Pakistani officer with the intention to source out intelligence details, and pass them to Indian forces. Vicky Kaushal is essaying the role of the Pakistani officer.

"Raazi" is being directed by Meghna Gulzar and produced by Karan Johar and Vineet Jain. It is scheduled to release on May 11, 2018.

Source: Hindustan Times