

12th Asian Art Biennale, Bangladesh

The festival is unique, says Japanese curator Roger McDonald

ERSHAD KAMOL

JAPANESE curator Roger Christopher McDonald is in town to participate in the 12th Asian Art Biennale, Bangladesh. Curator of Arts Initiative Tokyo (AIT) and commissioner for the Japanese team at the Biennale, Bangladesh, this is McDonald's third visit to

Bangladesh. Asked for his reaction to the event, McDonald said, "I'm happy as Hiroshi Fuji, one of the two Japanese artists participating in the exhibition, has won the Grand Prize for his installation. This is not the first time that a Japanese artist has won prize in the biennale in Bangladesh. Earlier a few Japanese artists won Grand as well as Honour-

able Mention Awards. This is for the 11th time Japan is participating in Asian Art Biennale, Bangladesh." Of the remarkable aspects of the biennale, McDonald said, "The festival is unique. I have participated in many exhibitions and I have also initiated many in Japan and other foreign countries like New Zealand, Singapore, Norway and others. But, none of these festivals are like the biennale in Bangladesh. Until now only Asian and African countries used to participate here. This year the organisers have included some Latin American countries; however, no European and North American countries have been invited for the festival."

McDonald regards the festival as a key cultural event. However, as he says, "Bangladesh should focus on more contemporary media. While it is appreciable that installation has been included in the festival for the first time, more contemporary art forms such as photography should find a place." McDonald believes that Japan can help Bangladesh give a boost to art. He said, "Many Bangladeshi artists are studying art in Japan. I believe that there may be more bilateral agreements between the two countries, as for instance developing the National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy as a world class venue. Moreover, in these days besides training for artists, training for the curators is equally important as they can develop patronage for art. Japan can help Bangladesh by offering six months or one year training for the curators. Moreover, Japan can help develop the infrastructure for art galleries."

McDonald is involved with teaching as well as writing on art.



Roger Christopher McDonald



The prize winning installation by Hiroshi Fuji

Group painting exhibition

Of landscapes and figures

KAVITA CHARANJI

Spring is in the air. Look around and you will see the cultural world buzzing with functions and performances to celebrate this joyous season. One such stop for art lovers is the ongoing 10-day Spring Art Festival at the Art & Soul Gallery. On display are the works of 14 senior artists-- a departure for the gallery, which usually features fewer painters.

Homing in predominantly on the themes of vibrant nature and figures are realistic, semi-abstract and abstract paintings. The artists are Rokeya Sultana, AS Monjurul Hai, Abdul Mannan, Anisur Rahman, Zeenat Wahid, HM Bashirullah, Quader Bhuyan, Shamsul Hoque,

Alauddin Ahmed, Mohammed Serajul Islam, Syeda Sazia Sultana, Zemrina Bente Ali, Lakshman Kumar Sutradhar, and the late Matiar Rahman.

Some of the works that immediately catch the eye of the viewer are Abdul Mannan's watercolour work, titled *Our Country-1*, which depicts a rural landscape and Rokeya Sultana's *Relation* in mixed media with three women and birds in the midst of nature. Other works worthy of attention are those of Zeenat Wahid (the vibrant semi-abstract *Harmony*, in watercolour) and the late Matiar Rahman's *Cow boy* an evocative village scene in watercolour.

Dwelling on the finer points of the exhibition, Nabila Rahman, managing director of the Art &

Soul Gallery, says, "Each artist with his or her distinctive subjects, styles, forms, textures, colours are sure to stir our senses, provoke our awareness and touch our core in special ways. An assorted sense of emotions engulfs us when we see a piece of art...which is the fragmentation of the vision of our reality or manifestation of our fantasy."

The response to the exhibition, which concludes on March 12, has been fairly good but efforts are on to draw in more people. Next on the cards at the gallery is a display of etchings, engravings and wood cut prints, crafted by Mohammed Muslim Mia.



Gypsy Girls by Seraj Mohammed Islam



Village Boy and Fish by Shamsul Haque



Bath by Lakshman Kumar Sutradhar

CULTURAL FEAST

Exhibition

Title: 12th Asian Art Biennale, Bangladesh
Venue: National Art Gallery, National Museum, Osmani Auditorium
Date: March 5-31
Title: The Other Voice
Date: March 8-19
Time: 12pm to 8pm
Venue: Bengal Gallery Of Fine Arts House275/F, Road 27(Old), Dhanmondi R/A

Title: Spring Art Festival
Date: March 3 to 12
Time: 11am to 8pm
Venue: Art & Soul Gallery House # 16, Road 36, Gulshan Avenue
Title: We and bio-diversity
Date: March 10 to 15
Time: 10am to 6:30pm
Venue: Zainul gallery-2 Institute of Fine Arts, DU

Channel click A seven-episode programme featuring documentaries begins today

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Gaurober Shamachar, a seven-episode programme, is featuring six documentaries made by 12 talented female filmmakers who participated in a workshop on documentaries. The documentaries -- *Begum*, *Deepannita Manjulika Chakma*, *Shajshilpi*, *Shikhar Hoitey Shikhorey*, *Nareer Chokhey Matritwa* and *Ektukhani Praaner Khorje* -- focus on issues such as women's

role in mass media: presentation and contribution, female entrepreneurs' and labourers' roles in poverty alleviation, female athletes and the social system, working women and motherhood and participation of women in films. Tarana Halim hosts the programme and noted personalities will participate in the discussion. *Gaurober Shamachar* will be aired every Sunday starting from March 12 at 6:00 pm on channel i.



Nurjahan Begum, the editor of Begum, the weekly magazine on women

Musical Soiree Rebeka Sultana's four decades in the musical arena

KHALID-BIN-HABIB

Amra Surjamukhi arranged a musical soiree on March 10 at Begum Sofia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum. The event featured Rebeka Sultana, a seasoned singer who has been in our musical arena for 45 years. Rebeka is a dedicated Nazrul artiste; in addition she has also rendered a number of *adhunik* songs. Besides performing in musical programmes in Bangladesh, she has participated in concerts in Bangkok, Melbourne, Kathmandu, Sydney, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Stockholm, Tripoli, Tunisia and Malta.

The programme began with a recitation of *Amar Porchay* by Rahman Shojol. Prior to Rebeka's performance, Nazrul Professor Rafiqul Islam, poet Saiful Bari, veteran radio and TV personality Hena Kabir, singers Sadya Afreen Mallick and Rowshan Ara Mustafiz, Shafiqul Islam Selim and Hasina Mariam Shobha of Amra Surjamukhi spoke on the occasion. Hena Kabir said about Rebeka, "She comes from a family that has a rich musical tradition. Rebeka has been dedicated to her art as long as I can remember her."

Sadya Afreen Mallick outlined the current situation of Bangladeshi culture. In her speech she said, "The young generation are drifting away from our traditions. Some good works are being done but they often go unnoticed. We have to preserve and promote our songs, our culture and present it in a way that our future generations can be proud of. The regular efforts by Amra Surjamukhi that promote quality Bangla songs are laudable."

Nazrul researcher Dr Rafiqul Islam, chief guest of the event said, "Kazi Nazrul Islam, despite being the country's National Poet has had his work distorted perhaps more than any other among his peers. He was in fact very liberal with his songs. He allowed the stalwart artistes to make variations in style. But it was never meant to be exploited and distorted according to the whims of a few people." He



Rebeka Sultana

also pointed out that among the 3,500 songs of Nazrul, only 1,500 songs are available on records. Moreover, among these songs the artistes usually render about 150 to 200 popular songs.

Rebeka began the soiree with the presentation of a *khayal* in *raaga Basant*. Although Rebeka's forte is Nazrul songs, her performance also included songs of Tagore, Rajnikant, Atul Prasad, songs of the yesteryears, folk songs and *adhunik* songs.

Osama's niece to star in reality TV show

Osama bin Laden's niece, an aspiring singer who posed for a racy photo shoot in a magazine last year, has signed up for a reality TV show about her life and her as yet unfulfilled "quest for stardom."

Wafah Dufour Bin Ladin, whose mother was married to the al Qaeda leader's half brother, was born in California but lived in Saudi Arabia from the age of three to 10.

"I understand that when people hear my last name, they have preconceived notions, but I was born an American and I love my country," Dufour said in a statement from ReganMedia announcing the deal to develop a reality TV series.

Based in New York, Dufour has been promoting herself as a musician and last December appeared in a sultry GQ photo spread.



"Her story will bridge the gap that people feel exists between the cultures she has lived in," ReganMedia President Judith Regan said.

Dufour, who earned a master's degree in law from Columbia University, was in Geneva with her mother at the time of the September 11, 2001 attacks. She had said in the past she had never met Osama bin Laden.

She cites U2, Depeche Mode, The Cure and The Cranberries among her musical influences.

Source: Internet

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTV
News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:15 am.
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11 pm.
News (English) 8:20 am, 7:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.
Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD
Every hour on the hour

BTV
09:05 Musical Programme
05:15 National TV Debate
06:10 Geetanjali
06:35 Programmes from the Chattogram Centre
07:00 *Mati O Manush*
07:30 Drama Serial
07:50 *Swadhinota Mohan Swadhinota*
08:45 Drama Serial: *Rangdhanu*
09:25 Drama Serial: *Swapno Sonargaon*
10:25 *Teknaf Theke Tetulia*
10:30 *Agonjhora Shondhya*

CHANNEL i
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 *Trityo Matra*
11:05 *Tele Prescription Hridoye Mati O Manush*
12:30 *Aj Dupurey O Citycell Tarokakothon*
01:05 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
01:30 *Shangbadpotrey Bangladesh*
01:45 Public Reaction
02:40 Selected plays of Humayun Ahmed
04:05 *Bashundhara Amader Gaan*
04:45 *Sa Re Ga Ma*
06:00 *Gaurober Shomachar*
07:50 Talk Show: *Aloe Bhubon Bhora*
09:35 *Jibon Jekhaney Jamon*
10:00 Drama Serial: *Bela Obeljar Golpo*

ATN BANGLA
10:30 *Onyodrishti*
11:35 *Gandharaj Samsung Cine Aha*
12:15 *Adibashi Jonopod*
12:50 *Smitir Monikothae*
01:30 *Shomali Shadakalo*
02:30 Drama Serial: *Nirob*

03:10 *Koshto*
Drama Serial: *O Amar Chokhu Nai*
03:45 *Shapla Shaluk*
04:20 Music Box
04:45 *Ispahani Pure Snax Quiz Time*
05:10 Special programme of 3rd International Film Festival
05:45 *Islami Sawal O Jobab*
06:25 *Three Stooges*
08:00 Drama Serial: *Jol Porey Pata Norey*
08:30 Drama Serial: *The New Shabuj Opera*
09:00 Drama Serial: *Nirey Tair Neel Dheu*
09:30 Drama Serial: *Ek Akasher Swapno*
10:40 Business This Week

ntv
08:35 *Aajker Shokal*
Documentary: *Animal Kingdom*
10:05 *Natoker Gaan*
10:30 *Baul songs: Mon Amar Shondhan Kori*
11:30 Talk Show: *Ki Kotha Tahar Shathay*
Documentary: *World Of Arts*
12:30 *Hoi Hullor Mukhtangan*
01:05 *Kachher Manush*
02:35 Single Episode
03:15 Drama: *Tourist Putulnash*
04:25 *Snapshot Of Change*
05:20 *Apar Jigyasha*
06:20 *Shubho Shondhya*
06:50 *Agrojo*
08:20 Drama Serial: *Romizer Aaina*
09:10 *Lux Glamour World*
09:50 Drama Serial: *Godhulir Alo*

PICK OF THE DAY

Jol Porey Pata Norey
On ATN Bangla at 08:00 pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Azizul Hakim, Srabonti, Shahed

Agontuk
On Rtv at 08:00
Drama Serial
Cast: Zahid Hassan, Tania, Fima

Rtv
06:30 *Deshar Gaan*
07:30 *Hridoye Shur Ashey*
07:45 *Shukhi Thakun Deho Mon-e*
09:30 *Just Band*
10:30 *Telefilm: Doyita*
01:00 *Look At Me*
02:30 *Shoto Proshno*
03:30 *Ajker Bangladesh*
04:15 *Look At Me*
05:30 *Bangla Cartoon: Rookatu*
06:30 *Rtv Exclusive*
08:00 Drama Serial: *Agantuk*
08:50 Drama Serial:
09:15 *Million Dollar Baby*
10:30 *Man On Fire*
01:00 *Miracle*
03:15 *Under The Tuscan*

HBO
10:30 *Wayne's World 2*
12:30 *Willard*
02:30 *The Powerpuff Girls Movie*
04:00 *National Security*
05:45 *The Hunted*
08:00 *New on the big Screen in March*
8:30 *The Long Kiss Goodnight*
11:00 *Rambo: First Blood Part II*
01:00 *White Oleander*

STAR MOVIES
09:15 *Million Dollar Baby*
10:30 *Man On Fire*
01:00 *Miracle*
03:15 *Under The Tuscan*

STAR PIUS
08:30 *Dharam Aur Hum*
09:30 *Krishna Kathaiyen*
10:30 *Yatra*
11:00 *Mano Ya Na Mano*
11:30 *Chalti Ka Naam Antakshiri*
12:30 *Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Dhoom*
01:00 *Musafir Hoon Yaaron*
10:30 *Mirch Masala*
02:30 *Shanno Ki Shaadi*
03:00 *Pardey Ke Peechey*

STAR WORLD
08:30 *Billboard Us Countdown*
09:30 *Hogan's Heroes*
10:00 *Get Smart*
10:30 *The Bold & The Beautiful*
12:30 *Desperate Housewives*
01:30 *Lost*
02:30 *The O.C.*
03:30 *Monk*

DISCOVERY
08:30 *Wild Discovery*
09:30 *Discovery India*
10:30 *Discovery India People*
11:30 *Discovery Wings*
12:30 *Lifestyle Showcase*
01:30 *Discovery India*
02:30 *Zero Hour*
03:30 *War Zone*
04:30 *Wild Discovery*
05:30 *Discovery India*
06:30 *Discovery Wings*
7:30 *Wild Discovery*
08:30 *Discovery Biggest Shows*
10:30 *Night Safari*
11:30 *Journey of Life*

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
09:30 *Dogs With Jobs*
10:00 *Dogs With Jobs*
10:30 *Backyard Science*
10:45 *Doc Eureka*
11:00 *Serious: Desert*
11:45 *Doc Eureka*
12:00 *Serious: Desert*
12:30 *Wildlife Detectives*
01:00 *Croc Chronicles*
01:30 *Air Crash Investigation S2*
03:30 *Interpol Investigates*
04:30 *Seconds From Disaster*
05:30 *Shoreal Asia*
06:30 *Microkillers*
07:30 *Megacities*
08:30 *Megastructures*

STAR SPORTS
10:00 *Australia Tour Of South Africa Standard Bank*
01:00 *Australia Tour Of South Africa Standard Bank*
02:00 *Formula One Qualifying 2006 Formula One*
02:30 *Formula One Qualifying Sakhr Bahrain Bahrain Grand Prix (L)*
03:30 *Formula One Qualifying 2006 Formula One*
04:30 *Formula One Qualifying Sakhr Bahrain Bahrain Grand Prix (L)*
05:15 *Formula One 2006*
06:45 *Formula One 2006*
07:30 *English Premier Football League English Premier Football League 2005/06*
08:30 *English Premier Football League English Premier Football League 2005/06*

ESPN
10:30 *ICC Cricket World Cup Highlights (T)*
11:00 *Australia Tour Of South Africa Standard Bank*
12:28 *West Indies Tour Of New Zealand The National Bank Test Series - 2006*
1:58 *Australia Tour Of South Africa Standard Bank*
06:00 *Australia Tour Of South Africa Standard Bank*
09:30 *English Premier Football League English Premier Football League 2005/06*
09:55 *English Premier Football League English Premier Football League 2005/06*

TEN SPORTS
09:00 *WWE: Experience*
09:30 *Winning Post*
10:00 *Chevrolet Cricket Show*
12:30 *Pakistan v India : 3rd ODI H/Ls*
05:00 *Indian Horse Racing*
05:30 *European Tour Weekly*
06:30 *WWE:Heat*