

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Film Screening

Venue: Alamgir Kabir Chalachitra Kendra, 62, Science Laboratory Road
Date: May 30-31
May 31
5pm Paromitar Ekdin; 7pm Mr. and Mrs. Iyer



Film Screening

To raise fund for Poet Samudra Gupta
Organiser: Students of Institute of Fine Arts, DU
Venue: Auditorium, IFA
Date: May 27-June 4
May 31
2:30pm Life is Beautiful; 4:30pm Mondo Meyer Upakhyar; 7pm Malena



Theatre

Play: Lower Depth
Troupe: Department of Theatre and Music
Venue: Natmandol, University of Dhaka
Date: May 25-31
at 07:00 pm



Film Screening

Organiser: Children's Film Society
Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, H 510, R 7, Dhanmondi
Film: Old Knottabych
Date: May 31
Time: 5pm



Fundraiser

Painting, photography exhibition and film screening for poet Samudra Gupta

JAMIL MAHMUD

Students of the Institute of Fine Arts (IFA), DU have arranged a fundraiser for the ailing poet Samudra Gupta. Gupta is suffering from gallbladder cancer and is currently admitted to Square Hospital. Painting and photography exhibitions are on at the IFA premises. A film screening began at the IFA auditorium from May 27.

The students of 14th batch of IFA arranged the painting exhibition at the IFA premises from May 21. The exhibition includes water-colour paintings by students. One of the organisers, Nahid Hasan Topu -- a student of the Department of Crafts -- informed that by May 26, TK 38,000 has been collected from sales of the paintings, which is not sufficient for the treatment of Gupta.

Shopno Samudra, a student of the Department of Ceramics and daughter of Samudra Gupta, urges everyone to come forward to save her father's life.

The film screening began with a show of Satyajit Ray's *Hirak Rajar Deshey*. Eminent film personality Soovas Dutt and noted poet Nimalendu Goon were present at the inaugural session. Thirty one films including *Colour of Paradise*, *Children of Heaven*, *Life is Beautiful*, *Daruchini Dwip*, *Aguner Parashmoni*,



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

The photo and painting exhibition (top and bottom-left) at IFA, students collect funds for the treatment of poet Samudra Gupta (bottom-right)

Antar Mahal, *Taxi*, *Mr. and Mrs. Iyer*, *Pink Panther*, *Malena* and *Herbert* will be screened till June 4. Tickets are worth Tk 30 each.

With the help of the web-based photography organisation www.bangladeshi-photographers.com, a five-day photography exhibition titled "Samudra Gupta Aid Photog-

raphy Exhibition" has begun at the IFA premises from May 29. Fifty photos taken by native and expatriate photographers are on display. The photography exhibition is open everyday from 11 am to 7 pm and will continue till June 2. Prices of the photographs range from TK 1000 to 1500.



16th Young Artists' Art Exhibition

Subrata Das: Addressing social issues

ERSHAD KAMOL

For his acrylic on canvas titled "Perception 40", Subrata Das has won Honourable Mention at the ongoing 16th Young Artists' Art Exhibition, organised by the Department of Fine Arts of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). Two paintings of his "Perception" series are on display at the exhibition, which will continue till June 6 at the National Art Gallery.

In the award winning work,

Subrata Das has created an image of the god Ganesh, one of the familiar deities in the Hindu pantheon, with tube-well pipes. In front of the image are many empty pitchers.

"God Ganesh's image has been used as symbol, which represents many people in this world who go in for charitable work. However, the red colour used on the image represents those people who are not taking their responsibilities seriously. Meanwhile, the empty pitchers stand for the needy people of the society," said Subrata Das.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Subrata Das (top), one of the paintings from the "Perception" series (left)

He further added, "It's my style to recreate the divine and human with everyday objects. In this manner I touch the contemporary socio-political issues in my perception series." In fact, Subrata Das has been working on his "Perception" series since 2005. So far, he has completed over 50 paintings for this series.

Das said, "There are many problems around us. I address these problems. So, there is large room for experimenting. I'll continue working on this series until I lose my interest."

"I have participated in several solo and group exhibitions with the

paintings from the 'Perception series,'" he added. Subrata Das has completed BA (Honours) and MA in Fine Arts (Painting) from the University of Chittagong. Currently he teaches painting at a school in Chittagong.

On the prospects for the young artists living outside Dhaka, Subrata said, "Young artists outside the capital have to struggle to draw attention, as cultural activities are mostly Dhaka centric. There are few opportunities for the artists in Chittagong. I'm working hard to draw attention at the national level."

Chhayanat to open a resource centre

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

With support from the Royal Norwegian Embassy, leading cultural organisation Chhayanat will establish a multi-facilitated resource centre.

In this regard, a deed was signed by the two organisations at the Royal Norwegian Embassy recently. Khairul Anam Shakil, general secretary of Chhayanat and Ingebjorg Stofring, the Norwegian ambassador to Bangladesh, signed the deed on behalf of their respective organisations. Among others, Dr. Sanjida Khatun, president of Chhayanat and Sarwar Ali, treasurer, Chhayanat were present.

The resource centre will be set up on the fourth floor of Chhayanat Sanskriti Bhaban. The state of art resource centre will have a digital archive of music, films, and books. The centre will also include a recording studio.

The resource centre will develop its own collection of audio-visual recordings. The centre will work as a research and education service provider and will open its facilities to artistes, academicians, researchers and students; namely anyone interested in the study of culture and music.

The resource centre will be fully functional in approximately three years, according to Chhayanat sources.



Norwegian Ambassador Ingebjorg Stofring and Khairul Anam Shakil signing the agreement; Dr. Sanjida Khatun and Sarwar Ali seen at the back

Opera *Natoker Dol* staged its production "Mirza Ghalib" on May 29 at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Written by Surendra Varma and directed by Ahmedul Kabir, the play highlights the life of Mirza Asadullah Beg, who adopted the name "Ghalib" in the tradition of all classical Urdu poets and his contemporary Mughal Delhi on the decline.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.



A young soprano in aid of less fortunate children

KAVITA CHARANJI, New Delhi

The 13-year-old soprano singer Tara Venkatesan has a dream -- to make this world a better place for the less fortunate children. In continuation of this dream she recently performed in "Music 4 Kids by Kids" in Delhi.

Describing this as a platform where children perform to raise awareness about the plight of other children, she enthralled the audience with her renditions of western classical, Broadway hits and dance. The proceeds of the show are to go to the NGO, SOS Children's Villages of India, committed to the care of underprivileged children.

Aptly the concert began with a moving "Saraswati Vandana" by the SOS children.

Then Tara, in a deep blue, sequined silk dress, stepped in under the spotlight. Her first classical piece was "Panis Angelicus," a composition of C Franck, followed by the devotional "Ave Maria" or "Hail Mary" -- a fitting tribute to motherhood. "Jerusalem," set to a poem by William Blake, followed. This song was made famous as it featured in the 1981 film, "Chariots of Fire". In 2004 Jerusalem was made the anthem of the England cricket team.

Tara's playful rendering of Mozart's "Das Veilchen" was a delight for the audience. The song "La Pastorella" saw Tara at her creative best, while the fusion piece "Odi Vilayadu Pappa" brought *kuchipudi* dance together with western classical music. Set to a poem evoking the harmony of childhood, by the great Tamil writer Subramania Bharati, this work was composed by her friend Neil, a classical maestro from Meghalaya and later rearranged by Russian pianist Svetlana Radashkevich. Accompanying Tara in this experimental piece was danseuse Chitkala (of Nitya Taringini), while the choreography was by the talented Yamini Reddy, daughter of Raja and Radha Reddy.

The Broadway hits came up next. In their ranks were "Colours of the Wind" (from "Pocahontas"), "Popular" (from "Wicked"), "I Just Can't Wait to be King" ("The Lion King")

and "My Favourite Things" ("Sound of Music").

In Delhi, Tara trains under Indian soprano Situ Singh Beuhler. She also has other teachers: Gerald Wirth, artistic director of the 400-year-old Vienna Boy's Choir, Pandit Ravi Shankar and his academy along with Bob Marks from New York. Last year she performed solos in Vienna, Rabenstein, Enns and Salzburg with the Global Children's Peace Choir, directed by Pandit Ravi Shankar and Wirth. She has performed for the president of Austria, the mayor of Salzburg, dignitaries in India along with talent shows in New York.

Music runs in Tara's illustrious family -- she is the granddaughter of former President of India R Venkataraman. From an early age, she

recalls her exposure to a variety of genres such as opera, Indian classical, jazz and fusion. However, as she jokingly asserts, "My grandfather calls me the oddball of the family as I am the only one to take to western classical music."

Now the young girl is off westwards -- she will stop over for further training in western classical music in Austria (with Wirth and another teacher). She also goes to the US where she is to attend a Broadway musical camp, which imparts instruction in dance, acting and singing. In the meanwhile, her message for SOS children, "I hope to do many such performances for and with SOS kids and others in need, around the world."



Tara Venkatesan (C) during a performance