

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Exhibition
Title: European Commission Logo Competition '09
Organiser: The Delegation of the European Commission
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi
Date: April 23-May 7
Time: 10am-8pm



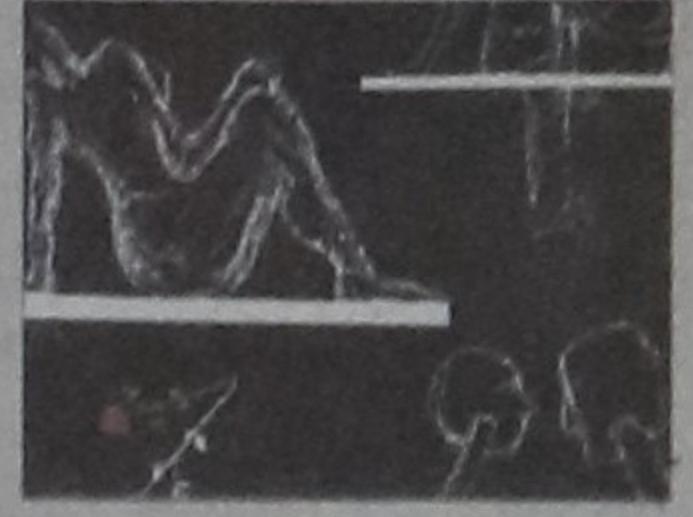
Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Searching
Artist: Nusrat Jahan Nazee
Venue: Radius Centre Bay's Galleria, 5th Floor, 57, Gulshan Avenue
Date: April 17- May 1



Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Touching the Reality
Artist: Golam Faruque
Venue: Shilpangan, H 26, Rd 3, Dhanmondi
Date: April 17-26
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Lyrical Lines
Artist: Rashed Kamal Russell
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Date: April 17-30
Time: 9 am- 12 pm and 5 pm- 8 pm



Bangladeshi artistes enthrall Delhi audience

KAVITA CHARANJI, New Delhi

West Bengal and Bangladesh recently came together on a common platform, titled 'A Panorama of Bengal's Performing Arts Heritage.' Depicting the rich plurality of Bengali art and culture, the event featured the best of both Bengals.

Among the show stoppers were 'Traditional epic of Bengal -- Manasa Mangal in Katha Style,' presented by Dr. Ashish Ghosh and group from Delhi, the Dhaka-based Chandana Majumdar's rendering of 'Sufi Tradition of Bengal -- Songs of Lalon Fakir, Bauls etc' and 'Chandalika,' also from Dhaka, performed ably by Sharmila Bandyopadhyay in the central role, accompanied by her Nrityanandan dance organisation.

From Kolkata came superb groups such as Su Samannaya, which transported the audience to a mystical realm with 'Proside Mato Mahishashur-Mardini,' an episode from 'Sri Sri Chandi,' a religious discourse based on the Goddesses Kali and Durga. The main singer was Subhamay Banerjee. One would find it difficult to believe that a performer with such a magical and moving voice was a management graduate. However, with his education at the School of Ramakrishna Mission, Kamarpukur, it is easy to understand how he gave of his best to the complex shlokas that he sang at the show. Today his mission is to form musical groups, particularly those dedicated to devotional music and spread the message of Thakur Sri Sri Ramkrishna.

The essence of Bengali culture was demonstrated when performers from Dhaka took the stage. On the first day of the programme, Chandana Majumdar sang folk songs originally



Chandana Majumdar sings at the programme.



Dancers of Nrityanandan perform 'Chandalika.'

sung, composed and written by mystic poets. Among those that went down well with the audience were "Khachar bhitor achin pakhi" of Lalon Shah, "Ki shape-e kamralo" of the famous late singer, lyricist and composer Kabi Bijoy Sarkar and "Aamar bondhu doyamoy" (Radharaman, also

singer, lyricist and composer).

So what's up with the City Cell-Channel i Music Award-winning Chandana? One of her playback songs for the blockbuster Bangla film, "Monpura," she says, has become a hit and is on everyone's lips in Bangladesh. Beside, on Pahela

Baishakh (Bengali New Year), she released her 23rd album (folk songs), called "Bondhu Doyamoy."

Another show stealer was the Nrityanandan dance organisation's rendering of Tagore's "Chandalika." With Sharmila in the eponymous role, the dance drama was sheer magic. Hasn't "Chandalika" been overdone, asked this correspondent? "Yes, it has been done many times by different people," she acknowledges, going on to add, "Each time it comes up with a new element as each choreographer has her own perspective on it." And Chandalika is still relevant in contemporary society, she says. "Its relevance today is that it shows the evils of the caste system, which is prevalent even today."

And Sharmila has great credibility in her chosen sphere. She is the director of Nrityanandan and head of the dance department and Manipuri dance teacher in Chhayanat. For her indisputable talent, she recently received the Meril Prothom Alo Award for best dancer, choreographer and dance director. "The award has increased my responsibility towards myself, my dance school as well as towards society." Not just this, Sharmila is the proud recipient of a recent award from the Bangladesh Mohila Parishad for her contribution to the field of dance. Now she is concentrating on Tagore's dance drama, "Shyama." She says she is reviving the dance drama with new elements.

With Chandana and Sharmila here in Delhi, the audience had a first hand look at the immense talent of Bangladeshi artistes. Such cultural exchanges cut across barriers even amidst the continual ups and down of political ties between the two nations.

Documentary Fest '09 ends



Syed Shamsul Huq speaks at the award giving ceremony.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The four-day Bangladesh Documentary Festival 2009 ended at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbagh on April 19. Titled 'Documenting Bangladesh 3,' the event was organised by Bangladesh Documentary Council (BDC). On the concluding day, an award giving ceremony took place, where awards were given to the winners in two categories-- general section and in student section.

Shibu Kumar Shil received the best prize in general section for his film "Eleas-er Khoari." On the other hand, two films-- "Frozen Tears," jointly directed by Polash Rosul, Tanvir Mridul, Mahru

Faruque, Lucky Osman, Faiz Alam and Arif Ul Alam, and "Operar Din Ratri" jointly directed by Farashat Rizwan, Imrul Kayes and M. Islam-- were awarded the first prize in student section.

Noted author Syed Shamsul Huq handed over the crests to the recipients as chief guest. Among others, publisher and trustee of the Liberation War Museum, Masifid Haque, and filmmaker and advisor of BDC Manzare Hossain Murad were present at the programme.

The student section was a new inclusion in this year's festival. "Japito Jibon," jointly directed by Muhammad Sazzad Hossain and Md. Arifur Rahman, received the second prize in the student section.

The award ceremony was followed by a special screening of the winning films at the venue.



Noted singer Subir Nandi (L) and Jhuma Khandakar perform at "Praner Khela," the monthly musical soiree -- featuring traditional and contemporary Bangla songs -- by Bengal Foundation. This instalment of "Praner Khela" was held at Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi, recently. Both Nandi and Khandakar performed popular film songs of 1960s and '70s at the programme.

Devdas yet once again



Dignitaries and actors at Mahurat of Devdas.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Among the immortal creations in Bengali literature is "Devdas." Written by Saratchandra Chattopadhyay in 1917, the widely read novel, remains an evergreen creation of the author. The moving book narrates the tragic love story of Devdas and Parvati.

The novel has been translated into many languages. After the introduction of cinema, "Devdas" was aired on the silver screens. So far 11 movies on "Devdas" have been made in various languages.

Impress Telefilm Limited is bringing "Devdas" on the silver screen for the 12th time. This announcement was made at a press conference at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on April 19. The movie will be directed by noted film director Chashi Nazrul Islam.

The movie will feature actor Sakib Khan as Devdas, Apu Biswas as Parvati, Moushumi in the role of Chandramukhi and Shahiduzzaman Selim as Chunila.

Using the latest technology in cinematography, Impress Telefilm is confident that it will come up with a quality production.

Faridur Reza Sagar, managing director, Impress Telefilm Limited and Channel i; Chashi Nazrul Islam, actor Bulbul Ahmed and others were present at the conference.

A website on Devdas was also launched at the press conference by Faridur Reza Sagar. The address of the website is www.idevdas.com.

The shooting of the movie is scheduled to start soon.



Theatre troupe Loko Natya Dal staged "Lilaboti Akhyan" at Experimental Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on April 19. A production of Loko Natya Dal, the play narrates the tragic story of Princess Lilaboti, based on the life of legendary philosopher and astrologer from ancient times, Khona. The play is written by Nasrin Mustafa and directed by Liaquat Ali Lucky.

'Empire of the Sun' author J.G. Ballard dies at 78

Author J.G. Ballard, whose best-known work, the autobiographical novel Empire of the Sun, was adapted for the big screen by Steven Spielberg in 1987, died on Sunday at his home in London. He was 78 years old and had suffered from prostate cancer.

In a career that spanned half a century, Ballard

wrote many acclaimed dystopian, often sci-fi-inflected short stories and novels, including The Drowned World, Cocaine Nights, and Crash, a disturbing tale of car-accident fetishism that was adapted into a controversial 1996 film by director David Cronenberg.

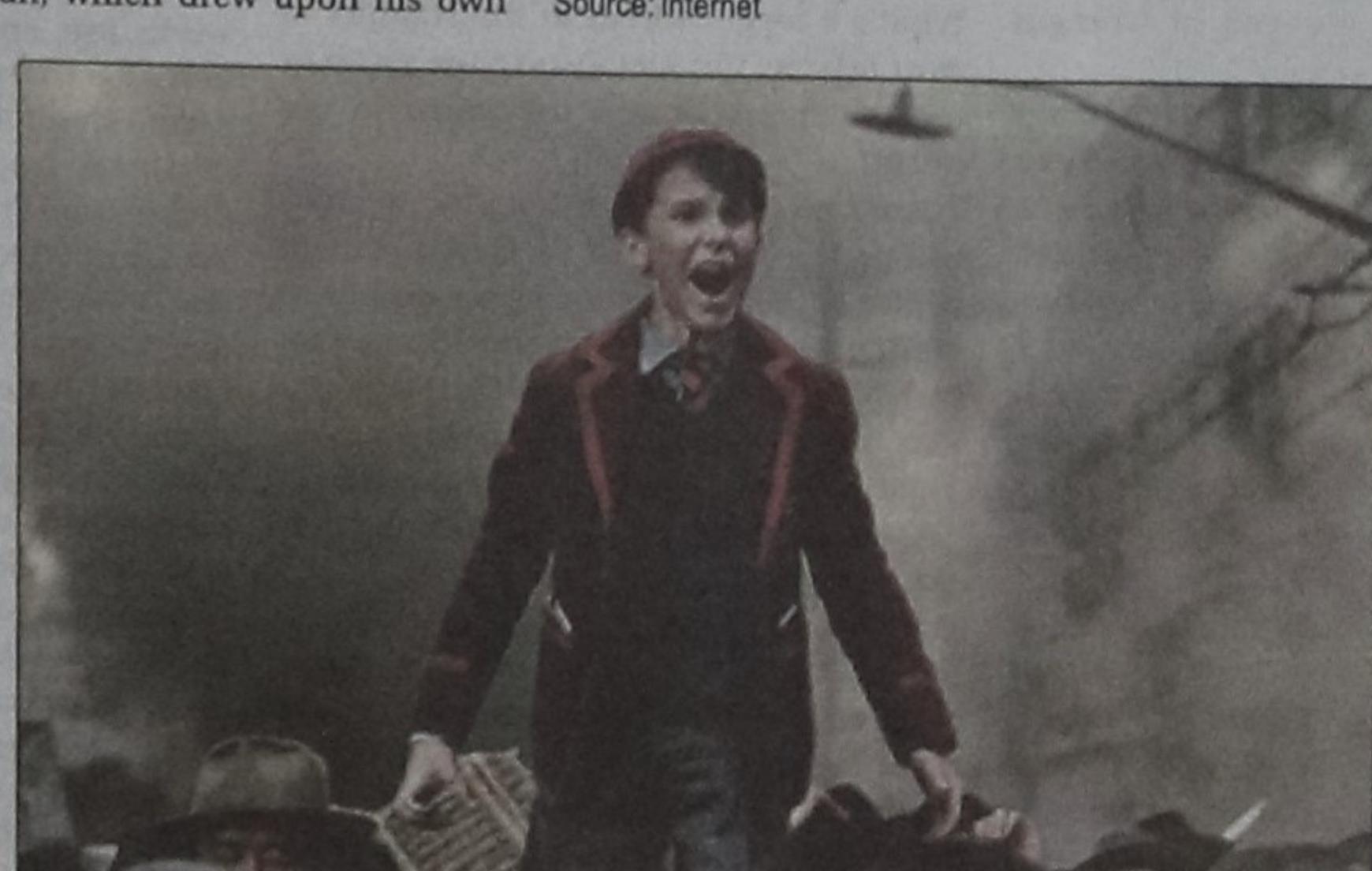
Empire of the Sun, which drew upon his own

childhood experiences in a Shanghai internment camp during World War II, became the basis for Spielberg's sweeping film, which earned six Oscar nominations and launched the career of its young star, Christian Bale.

Source: Internet



J.G. Ballard



Christian Bale stars in Steven Spielberg's film of J.G. Ballard's novel, Empire of the Sun.

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