

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: Jai Bangla
 Artist: Shahabuddin
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
 Date: Sep 27-Oct 10
 Time: 12-8pm



Fifth Anniversary Celebration of Sisimpur
 Venue: Bangabandhu International Convention Centre
 Date: September 15
 Time: 3pm Onwards



Photography Exhibition
 Title: Heritage Inspiration
 Photographer: M. Shamsuzzaman
 Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
 Date: September 15-19
 Time: 3-9pm



Iranian Film Festival
 Film: The Circle
 Director: Jafar Panahi
 Venue: Alamgir Kabir Film Centre, 62 Science Laboratory Road
 Date: September 18
 Time: 5pm



Quamrul Hassan's journals handed over to his daughter

Records can provide new insight into the master artist's life

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Quamrul Hassan was one of the finest painters of Bangladesh. His works delineated the rural Bengal and its people. His accomplishments include volumes of drawings, sketches, and paintings. He also illustrated many books. He liked to work in pen, ink, gouache, Chinese ink and oil.

Nazmul Hassan, younger brother of the master artist stayed with him in the 1970s. During the time, Quamrul started maintaining a diary. Writing was his passion. The diary witnessed Quamrul going over many experiences. He also kept many rough *khata* for drawings and writings.

Recently, Nazmul Hassan handed over forty such journals belonging to Quamrul to Sumona Hassan, daughter of the late artist. Nazmul has requested to publish the journals without any



Sumona Hassan (centre) receives the 'Potua' Quamrul journals from Nazmul Hassan.

editing. Artists, art enthusiasts, historians and critics will have an opportunity to study many undiscovered facets of Quamrul Hassan from these records.

The first entry by the artist was on May 8 in 1977,

on the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. Quamrul Hassan was the chief guest at a programme in Mymensingh. After returning home, he first wrote and then drew a sketch of the Nobel laureate poet.

Kamal Lohani, director general of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy; poet Ekhlashuddin Ahmed and Professor Bishwajit Chowdhury, among others, were present when the journals were handed over.

Children in creative mood

RAFIQUL ISLAM, Barisal

High spirits marked the preliminary competition for the Meridian-Ananda Alo Children's Painting Award '09 on Friday, at the Aswani Kumar Town Hall in Barisal city.

Around 100 schoolchildren from various schools in Barisal and the divisional area, took part in the competition in two categories. The winners will get their awards at a function in December.

Zakir Hossain, coordinator of the competition, said that the winners of the contest will receive an education insurance of Taka 1 lakh as the grand prize; Taka 75,000 for the runner-up and Taka 50,000 for the second runner up.

Pankaj Kumar Roy Chowdhury, district organiser of Shishu Academy of Barisal, said that the art works of disabled children were evaluated separately.

Susanta Gosh, former secretary of art school Barisal Charukala, told The Daily Star that the drawings of the children prove that given the right encouragement they can do even better.

Educationist Professor Mohammad Hanif said, "The competition has opened up many doors for hidden talents by giving them a chance to express their creativity."

Eid tidbits

New Baby Nazneen album in the offing

SYEDA SHAMIN MORTADA

Her name spells success. She has become an inseparable part of the Bangladeshi music and film industry, and in the process has conquered the hearts of millions. She has long years in singing behind her but her achievements have not made her complacent. Baby Nazneen will soon be releasing her latest studio album, a gift to her fans on the occasion of Eid. Talking about this project, Baby says: "There is variety in the 10 songs and monotony was a major challenge that was overcome successfully. It is a diverse album and I hope everyone will enjoy it."

Talking about her Ramadan routine, the singer says, "It has turned out to be quite a busy month for me. I am fasting, working out at the gym, doing *reyaz* and also recording songs. There is hardly any time for anything else." Talking about her culinary skills, Nazneen says, "I seldom get time to cook but during Ramadan I sometimes cook *chicken pulao*, *halwa* and other sweets/desserts."

Nazneen shares the recipe of a special drink she prepares for herself during Ramadan. "You can take some refrigerated watermelon or this local fruit called *bangi* for this drink. Clean it, chop it into small pieces, add a bit of sugar and mint leaves. Then blend it. Strain it and drink it chilled for *iftar*. It refreshes and recharges you."



Baby Nazneen

Discussing her Eid plans, Nazneen says: "I am leaving Dhaka to perform at an international concert right after Eid. Artists from 10 other countries will also be performing and I will be the only one representing Bangladesh. I will leave on September 25 and my show is on the 27th in Newcastle, England. Then I will go to Italy, Switzerland and Spain for more performances and return home after that."

MTV Awards marred by Kanye West outburst



Kanye West takes the microphone from Taylor Swift as she accepts the "Best Female Video" award during the MTV Video Music Awards on September 13.

Taylor Swift seemed pretty surprised herself to have won the VMA for Best Female Music Video on Sunday evening, but the real shock came when Kanye West suddenly burst onto the stage and rudely stole the microphone from the country crooner during her acceptance speech.

"Yo Taylor, I'm really happy for you, I'll let you finish, but Beyoncé has one of the best videos of all time," West said. "One of the best videos of all time!"

A clearly embarrassed Swift stood motionless, not knowing what to do as West contin-

ued his rant. Eventually, audience members rose to their feet and booed the rapper down as cameras captured a mortified Beyoncé. West took his seat (to make matters worse, time was up and Swift didn't even have a chance to fire back) and controversy continued to ensue as a multitude of celebs told him off, prompting security to circle the area.

Swift was comforted by her friends and family immediately afterwards and was upset by the whole incident.

Diddy later took to the stage to present an award, but the second "Kanye" was uttered

again the crowd booed and "Taylor" was chanted through Radio City Hall, the tension reaching a high point when West's nominated video was played.

Beyoncé's hit "Single Ladies" eventually got all it deserved by taking on the big one -- Video of the Year. The ever-classy Beyoncé dedicated her time to Swift and had the emotional teen idol return to the stage for the opportunity to give her acceptance without any interruption.

The controversy certainly stole the spotlight from what was anticipated to be the show highlight -- Madonna opening for Janet Jackson and her tribute to brother Michael.

The Queen of Pop did let the audience in a little secret however, she did go on a few "dates" with the late King of Pop and that she felt an overwhelming sense of guilt that she had "abandoned" him after hearing of his sudden passing. But on a (kind of) positive note, her sons aged nine and four are now "obsessed" with MJ.

"There is a lot of moon walking going on in my house," Madonna said.

Source: Internet

Oprah Winfrey pushes Precious at Toronto film fest

AP, Toronto

Lee Daniels has an Oscar-winning movie to his credit, but he still needed some big-time help to draw attention to his latest film about a girl who overcomes crushing abuse.

He got it from Oprah Winfrey and Tyler Perry: The two are executive producers of "Precious," which had a premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival over the weekend.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Winfrey said she was happy to help bring more attention to the film.

"Everyone needs someone to help them navigate," the TV talk show host explained. "I had Bill Cosby, Quincy Jones, Sidney Poitier and Maya Angelou who I look to. You can't do that on your own. Someone has to show it to you."

Daniels produced "Monster's Ball," which won Halle Berry an Oscar for best actress in 2002. She adapted "Precious" from Sapphire's

novel "Push." It tells the story of an illiterate black girl who manages to rise above poverty, sexual and mental abuse. The film, which stars Mo'Nique, Mariah Carey, Paula Patton and others, won the Grand Jury prize at the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year and has been generating Oscar buzz.

Still, Daniels believes the cachet of Oprah and hit filmmaker Perry can help the film build a greater audience.

Perry's latest movie, the comedy "I Can Do Bad All By Myself," opened at the top of the box office this weekend. Besides directing and writing the film, based on his stage play of the same name, Perry co-stars as his brash, cross-dressing alter ego, Madea. Perry's "Madea Goes to Jail" also opened at No. 1 in February.

"My movies are art films. So many people don't see art films. People do see Tyler's movies and they do hear Oprah's word, so it is really good," Daniels said.

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