

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Int'l Baul Festival and Seminar
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: December 11-12
Time: 10am onwards



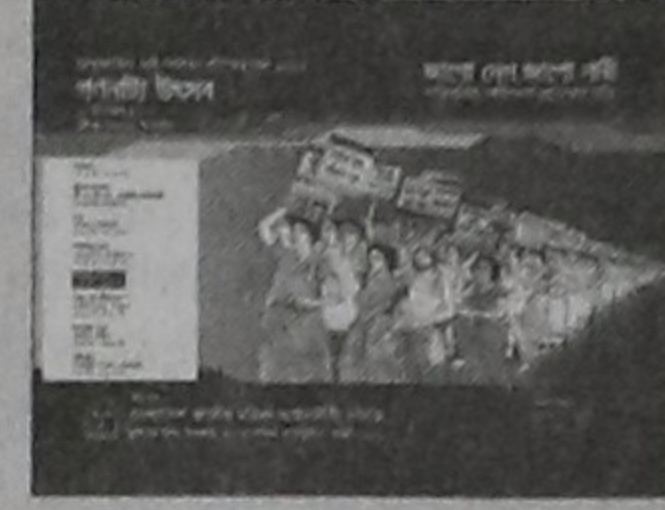
Solo Art Exhibition
Painter: Rejaul Karim
Title: Twilight Zone
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27, Dhanmondi
Date: December 8-19
Time: 12pm-8pm



Documentary Screening
Film: Al Badar
Filmmaker: Fakhrul Arefin
Venue: Muktomancha, Jahangirnagar University
Date: December 15
Time: 7:30pm



Theatre Festival
Organiser: Bangladesh National Woman Lawyer's Association
Venue: Rabintra Sharobar, Dhanmondi
Date: December 11
Time: 10am onwards



BSA to honour 25 Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artistes

Two-day Int'l Baul Festival and Seminar from December 11



Kamal Lohani (centre) speaks at the conference.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) is celebrating the month of victory with honouring 25 Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artistes. The felicitation programme will be held as part of BSA's nine-day 'Bijoy Mela', which starts from December 14 at its premises. As part of the Victory Day celebration, a two-day International Baul Festival and Seminar will also be held at the venue. The Baul Festival will start from December 11.

At a press conference held at the

academy's seminar hall on December 8, the authorities went over the 'Bijoy Mela' and Baul Festival plans. Director General of BSA, Kamal Lohani, among others, spoke at the conference.

The felicitation programme for the 25 artistes will be held on December 16 evening. The organisers informed that among the 25 artistes, three are from India. The 'Bijoy Mela' will feature songs on the Liberation War, recitation, plays, photography and painting exhibition, film screening, dance-drama, discussion and more.

The festival will start with a photography and painting exhibition at the National Art Gallery, BSA. Information and Culture Minister Abul Kalam Azad is expected to inaugurate the exhibition on December 14 at 11 am. The photography exhibition will feature portraits of freedom fighters and memorable moments from the Liberation War.

On December 14, early in the morning, the organisers will pay tribute to the martyred intellectuals.

The Baul Festival and Seminar will feature Bauls from all over the country as well as from West

Bengal, India. The festival is a part of the academy's ongoing project, 'Action Plan for Safeguarding Baul Songs', which started in April 2008.

The festival will feature Bauls from Kushtia, Jhenidah, Jessore, Manikganj, Dhaka, Faridpur, Sylhet, Sunamganj and Netrakona. Bauls from Bakura, Birbhum, Murshidabad, Nadia and Bardhaman of West Bengal will also render songs at the programme.

The seminar will feature international folk researchers from Bangladesh, India, Japan, United Kingdom and Italy.

Nagarbaul to perform at South Asian Band Festival

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

It's that time of the year again when rock bands from South Asia will enthrall Delhiites.

The third edition of the three-day South Asian Band festival, starting from December 11 at the historic Purana Qila here, will see James and his band Nagarbaul of Bangladesh along with 14 other rock bands from 9 countries, including well known names like Pakistani group Strings and Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy from India.

Rock lovers are particularly looking forward to the performance by Nagarbaul and James who has given music in various Bollywood movies like "Gangster" and "Life In a Metro".

"The band festival has become popular, particularly among youngsters. Our confidence arises from an impressive line-up of bands. There is an all-female band called Afflatus which will open the festival, and the grand finale will be by Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy," said Virendra Gupta, director general of Indian Council for Cultural Relations, which is organising the festival.

"For the first time, the festival has gone beyond SAARC to include Myanmar in the event," Gupta added.



Rock lovers are particularly looking forward to the performance by James.

Apart from established names of Rock 'n' Roll in South Asia, the festival has provided a platform for upcoming groups like Emperor (Myanmar), Fa'thu and The Early Birds (Maldives), the all-girls group Afflatus from the north-eastern Indian city of Shillong and Avial (Thiruvananthapuram, India) to rub shoulders with the big names in music industry.

The festival will also see a three-member rock band

Kabul Dreams from war-torn Afghanistan. After being out of the country during the years of war and turbulence, the group has come back to Afghanistan.

The band festival will be followed by a cross cultural artistes' camp in March 2010 to be held in Jammu city in Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir and a first-ever South Asian Theatre Festival with a theme relating to women issues in the wake of the International Women's Day on March 8.

14th Berger Young Painters' Art Competition Award Recognition for up and coming artists

CORRESPONDENT

The 14th Berger Young Painters' Art Competition Award finale was held on December 8 at Winter Garden, Dhaka Sheraton. The first phase of the programme saw the Lifetime Achievement Award going to noted painter Murtaja Baseer. Baseer is one of the senior-most acclaimed painters of our country. His immense contribution and dedication to Bangladeshi art has helped him attain his current position.

Asif-Uz-Zaman received the first prize; Bishwajit Goswami came second; Md Mainuddin snatched the third position; Kamaluddin came fourth; Nazmul Haque Bappy fifth and Abanti Chakma secured the sixth position.

The jury included Rafiqun Nabi, Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka; Abdus Shakoor Shah, Professor,



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Winners (back row) of this year's competition with judges and organisers.

Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka; Abul Barq Alvi, Professor, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka and S.K. Afzal, Professor, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka. Eminent painter Quayyum Chowdhury was the chairman of the jury committee. Rupali Chowdhury,

managing director of Berger Paints Ltd, inaugurated the event and presented crests to the winners.

Mohsin Habib Chowdhury, general manager, Sales and Marketing, Berger Paints Ltd, senior painters like Quayyum Chowdhury, Rafiqun Nabi, Abul Barq Alvi and a num-

ber of noted media personalities were present at the event.

The award giving ceremony was followed by live music. This year's selected paintings will be displayed at Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka from December 21 to 26.

Fox says "Avatar" is costliest film it's ever made

Hundreds of millions of dollars is a lot to spend on a film featuring a bunch of blue aliens -- but that's exactly what Fox Features has done with new 3D sci-fi "Avatar," which the movie studio says is the most expensive production it has ever made.

In an interview with CNN just before the movie's worldwide release later this month, James Cameron, co-chairman and CEO of Fox Filmed Entertainment, wouldn't divulge the figure spent on the sci-fi blockbuster.

Guessing the multi-million dollar sum of the latest film from director James Cameron has been a popular game for industry watchers for some months: a recent article in the Wall Street Journal speculated the film's final tally could exceed \$300 million.

"It is the most expensive film we've made, but now, having the luxury of hindsight, it is money well spent, so I'm not concerned about it," Cameron told CNN at the Thessaloniki film festival in Greece.

Nevertheless, if some of the projected numbers are right, "Avatar's" budget would exceed the current most expensive film ever made. Currently, that crown is held by "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End," with a budget of an estimated \$300 million, according to boxoffice Mojo.com.

But then Fox has been here before with Cameron. "Titanic" (1997), his previous feature, cost a record-breaking estimated \$200 million at the time.

It was an investment that paid off -- "Titanic" bagged more than \$1.8 billion worldwide as well as a clutch of movie awards including a best director Oscar for Cameron himself.

Small wonder that Fox is investing hugely in the promotion and marketing of "Avatar," a technically advanced epic sold as a game-changer for the movie industry, potentially ushering in a new era of mass 3D-movie watching.

In August, director Cameron stoked the publicity, unveiling a 15-minute

for technology to catch up to allow him to do it the way he wanted to," Cameron told CNN.

Set on the planet of Pandora, the story unfolds as a war rages between invading humans and the planet's native species, the Na'vi. Sam Worthington stars as a disabled former Marine who becomes an "avatar" -- a 10-foot-tall, blue-skinned creature genetically engineered to resemble the planet's humanoid life forms. Other cast members include Sigourney Weaver, who Cameron cast as Ripley more than two decades ago

of the performance capture that he was doing," Cameron explains, adding that even he does not understand the complex cinematic process.

Cameron's other big innovation has been to substantially reduce the size of the special cameras used to capture images in 3D, once the size of a large domestic fridge.

These technical improvements allowed Cameron more fluidity in the production process allowing him to "construct the movie in the manner he thought creatively was best," according to Cameron.



Two avatars from the much-anticipated new sci-fi 3D epic, "Avatar".

taster of the movie to sold-out audiences in selected cinemas around the world, an event dubbed "Avatar Day."

Cameron says Cameron has had the film in his mind for more than a decade.

"He first conceived the idea and the basic story and then had said many times over the years he was waiting

in "Aliens."

Part of the multi-million dollar budget was the creation, by Cameron, of a new film camera that combines computer-generated imagery with live action.

"He integrated it with a monitor system, which allowed him to see the virtual world he was shooting as part

Cameron predicts that over the years, audiences will simply come to expect 3D movies and that it will become the dominant form of film.

"As Jim says, we experience the world in 3D, why should we experience film any different?"

Source: CNN

Group Theatre Federation pays homage to Rahman Rakku

CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF) arranged a memorial programme in honour of the recently deceased theatre personality Abdur Rahman Rakku. The programme was held at the Seminal Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on December 8.

Veteran theatre personalities along with young activists remembered

Rahman Rakku through a discussion on his life and work. Abdur Rahman Rakku died on November 30.

The event started with observing a one-minute silence. Jhuna Chowdhury, secretary general, BGTF gave the inaugural speech. Noted theatre personalities Nasiruddin Youssuff, Mamunur Rashid, Aatur Rahman, Azad Abul Kalam and Manna Hira, among others, spoke at the programme.

The speakers termed Rahman

Rakku as a true and dedicated theatre activist. Rakku started his theatre activities in his hometown Tangail and until his last breath he was the chief of Coronation Dramatic Club, a reputed theatre troupe of Tangail.

Liaquat Ali Lucky, president, BGTF presided over the programme.

Abdur Rahman Rakku was born in Tangail in 1947. He was one of the foremost cultural personalities in his hometown.