

### WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Painter: Zahura Sultana Hossain  
Title: Contemplation  
Venue: Bay's Galleria, Radius Centre, Gulshan-2  
Date: December 11-24  
Time: 10 am-8pm



**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: Fakhru Arefin  
Venue: Mukundananda, Jahangirnagar University  
Date: December 15  
Time: 7:30pm



**Photography Exhibition**  
Organiser: East West University Cine & Photography Club  
Venue: Orik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi  
Date: December 11-16  
Time: 3-8pm



## The universal language that is music

*"Songs of the Soul" at BICC*



Artists of Shurer Dhara and Gandharva Loka Orchestra perform songs of Tagore and Sri Chinmoy at the programme.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

ZAHANGIR ALAM

Shurer Dhara and Gandharva Loka Orchestra jointly held a musical soiree, titled "Songs of the Soul" at Harmony Hall of Bangabandhu International Convention Centre (BICC) on December 13.

Artists of Shurer Dhara and Gandharva Loka Orchestra performed songs of Tagore and Sri Chinmoy -- two Bengalis who earned wide recognition in the west.

Rabindranath Tagore -- a poet, novelist, musician, and playwright -- reshaped Bengali literature and music in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As author of "Gitanjali" he was the first Asian to win the Nobel Prize (in Literature, 1913). This recognition helped introduce Bengali literature to the world.

Sri Chinmoy -- originally from Chittagong -- wrote and composed a staggering number of 22000 songs. He emigrated to the U.S. in 1964. He was best known for holding public events on the theme of inner peace and world harmony (such as concerts, meditations, and races). A spiritual teacher, lyricist and artiste, Chinmoy's teachings emphasise love for God, daily meditation, service to the



world, and religious tolerance (a view that "all faiths" are essentially divine).

The programme started with a choral rendition of "Anandalokey Mangalokey" by Rezwan Banna and eight disadvantaged children. A performance by artists of the Gandharva Loka Orchestra -- "Tumi Alo/ Alo Shathey/ Alo Alo Alo" (written by Sri Chinmoy) -- followed.

A number of both western and eastern instruments like

guitar, octopad, cello, mandolin, violin, Irish flute, clarinet, sard, esraj, banshi, harmonium tabla and more were in perfect harmony, producing sounds with variation: from low to high, slow to fast -- touching the souls of the audience.

A hundred and fifteen singers and musicians -- all dressed in blue -- performing at a stretch was truly a vision of musical grandeur.

Artists and instrumentalists from Shurer Dhara

offered a number of songs including "Alo Amar Alo", "Shanti Karo Borishano", "Bhengeychho Duaar", "Aaji Shubho Diney", "Aguer Paroshmoni", "Ondhokarer Utsho" and "Aloker Ei Jharnadarayye".

Prior to the renditions, Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui spoke on Rabindranath Tagore. Rezwan Banna introduced Gandharva Loka Orchestra to the audience. The full-house audience included diplomats, cultural personalities and other dignitaries.

Vilupi Barrineau and Nameera Nuzhat jointly anchored the programme while Rezwan Banna and Renata Dossalien oversaw the total arrangement.

Rezwan Banna performed a duet "Shokatore Oi Kandichhey" with Renata Dossalien, resident representative of UNDP in Bangladesh. Later Banna rendered a solo "Durey Kothaye".

ATN Bangla, Prothom Alo and The Daily Star were media partners of the event.

Though the arrangement was much acclaimed, some in the audience felt that that repertoire could have included fewer songs -- making the programme compact.

### Honours

## Munier Chowdhury Shommanona and Zakaria Smriti Padak announced

CORRESPONDENT

Theatre (Topkhana) is one of the leading troupes in Bangladesh. The group confers two awards annually -- Munier Chowdhury Shommanona and Zakaria Smriti Padak.

This year the award giving ceremony was held at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on December 14. National Professor Kabir Chowdhury presided over the programme while Finance Minister AMA Muhith was present as chief guest.

This year's Munier Chowdhury Shommanona went to noted mime artiste Partha Pratim Majumder and Zakaria Smriti Padak went to theatre researcher Babul Biswas.

Biswas. Ramendu Majumdar announced the names of the awardees at the programme. As part of the awards, Partha Pratim Majumder received Tk 25,000 and Babul Biswas received Tk 15,000. Kabir Chowdhury gave away the awards.

Majumder said, "This is a rare moment for me. I dedicate this award to Himangshu Kumar Biswas and Barin Majumder."

Babul Biswas said, "I'm elated! This award will encourage me further." Kabir Chowdhury and Maher Kabir sponsored the Munier Chowdhury Shommanona; Ramendu Majumdar and Ferdousi Majumdar sponsored the Zakaria Smriti Padak.

After the prize giving ceremony, Partha Pratim Majumder staged mime performances.



(From left) Babul Biswas, Partha Pratim Majumder, Kabir Chowdhury and Ramendu Majumdar at the event.

## Victory Day celebration by Gitanjali

CORRESPONDENT

To observe the month of victory, cultural organisation Gitanjali held a musical soiree "Swadesh Bhaban Gaan" at Dance and Music auditorium, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy recently.

"Every year we celebrate Victory Day through special programmes," said Sajed

Akbar, noted singer and director of Gitanjali. Sajed Akbar led the performance of "Swadesh Bhaban Gaan." Sajed was accompanied by Nahar Jamil, Salma Akbar, Promod Dutt, Sufia Zakaria, Ahmed Ziaur Rahman, Subah Akbar and Sreya Zakaria.

The programme began with a group performance of the SD Burman number "Ami takdhum takdhum bajai Bangladesh-er-dhol."

Songs performed at the programme included "Aji Bangladesh-er-hridoy hotey", "O amar desher mati," "Gram chhara oi ranga mati path," "Jodi tor diaak shuney keu na ashey," and more. The programme ended with a group performance of the SD Burman number "Ami takdhum takdhum bajai Bangladesh-er-dhol."



Members of Gitanjali perform at the programme.

## Generating awareness against repression of women

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT  
Thakurgaon

Sanwar Haque Sanu rendered several songs relating to the repression of women.

At the end of the

programme,

a group of artis-

tes per-

formed

"Jari Gan"

against violence on women.

Earlier in the morning,

Thakurgaon NGO Cell

formed

an hour long human chain

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promote

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The programme

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Among others, Executive

Director of CDS, a local NGO,

Nurul Islam, NGO worker

Moushumi Rahaman,

Snigdha and others, spoke at

the meeting.

## Nokia Music Carnival rocks Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Music lovers, particularly those of the younger generation, swayed with the rhythm and tunes at a concert titled "Nokia Music Carnival" at King of Chittagong, a community centre here in the port city last Sunday.

Popular bands LRB, Dolchhut and Artcell enthralled

their fans with their hit numbers.

Nokia organised the concert as a part of series of events to be held in Rajshahi (December 18), Khulna (December 22) and the capital (December 26).

The concert opened with performances by bands of Chittagong. Led by Bappa Majumdar, Dolchhut began with the song "Din Bari Jaye" and continued with the band's other popular songs. Artcell jolted the audience with heavy music and started with "Prarthana".

Finally, the senior-most of the bands, LRB -- led by Ayub Bachchu -- took the stage amid rounds of applause. The rock guru recalled two renowned musicians -- Happy Akhand and Niloy -- and began with covers of their songs.

LRB also performed its songs "Ekdin Ghum Bhanga Shohore", "Meye Tumi Ki Dukkho Chino" and others.

Nokia launched a promotion for six mobile phone sets - Nokia 5530 XpressMusic, Nokia 5800 XpressMusic, Nokia 5310 XpressMusic, Nokia 2730 classic, Nokia 2700 classic and Nokia 6303 classic at branded retail and other outlets all around the country last month.

With the purchase of these sets and upon activation, each consumer was given a concert coupon. The coupons were used to collect tickets for the concerts.



Ayub Bachchu (top) and Bappa Majumdar perform at the concert.

PHOTO: STAR