

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

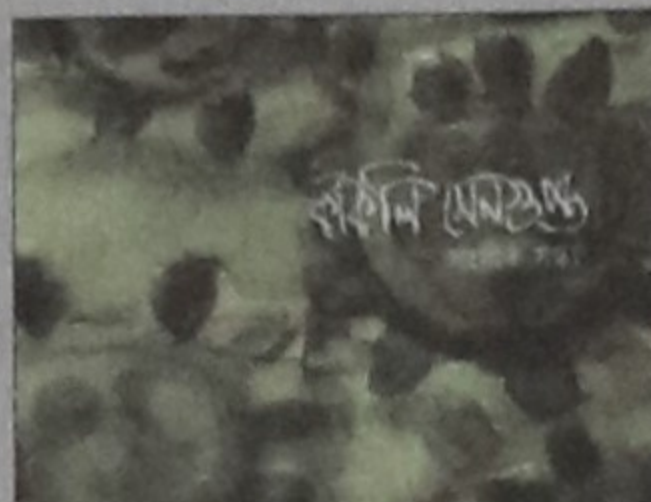
Classical Music Festival

Organiser: Chhayanaut
Venue: Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhavan, Dhanmondi
Date: December 24-26
Time: 6:30pm



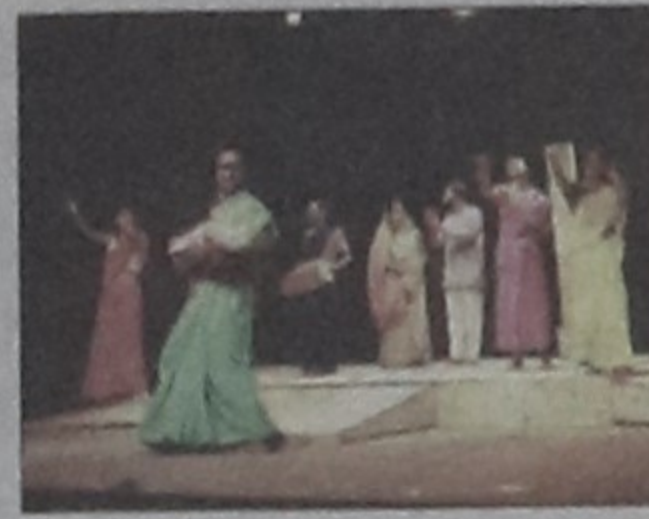
Solo Musical Soiree

Artiste: Kakoli Sengupta
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H 275/F (old), Dhanmondi
Date: December 24
Time: 7pm



Theatre

Play: Shikhandi Katha
Troupe: Mahakal Nitya Shampraday
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: December 25 & 26
Time: 7pm



Painting Exhibition

Painter: Biren Shome
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H 26, Rd 3, Dhanmondi
Date: December 25-January 5
Time: 10am-8pm



"Channel i Shera Kantho '09" finale tonight



The "Channel i Shera Kantho '09" finalists.

A CORRESPONDENT

The much-awaited grand finale of "Channel i Shera Kantho-2009" will be held today. Viewers at home and abroad can watch the 'Maha Utshab', aired live from Rajshahi District Stadium.

Seven finalists -- Ripon, Shakila, Konal, Tithi, Chaity, Nodi and Rafsan -- will vie for

the title.

Four judges of the competition -- Runa Laila, Sabina Yasmin, Subir Nandi and Alauddin Ali -- will also attend the finale.

Apart from live performances by the finalists, renowned dancers Shibli Mohammad and Shamim Ara Nipa along with 100 students from Rajshahi region will perform on the show.

Directed jointly by Farzana Brownia and Robin Khan, the former will host the event.



PHOTO COURTESY: BANGLAR CHOKH

The nine-day long Victory Day celebration by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) ended on December 22 at its premises. Titled 'Bijoy Mela', the programme was held at the newly built Bijoy Mancha (open stage). Reputed cultural organisations and artistes presented songs, dances, recitations and theatre troupes staged short plays throughout the festival. The event also included film screening, an installation and an exhibition featuring artworks and photographs on the Liberation War.

Emerging talents get focus

Berger Art Exhibition at Zainul Gallery

TAKIR HOSSAIN

The Berger Young Painters' Art Competition is an annual event that showcases entries of the top 40 finalists. The competition, which was held for the first time in 1996, has entered into its 14th year and encourages talented young artists to explore their creativity. It has now become a prestigious award in the Bangladeshi art scenario. The exhibition is on at Zainul Gallery (Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka).

Young painters are now experimenting with new techniques and themes -- ranging from climate change, urbanisation, nature, poverty, patriotism, political and economic crises to varied global issues. Some painters' works at the exhibition are mainly technique-oriented while some feature geometric lines, architectural shapes and varied unusual forms. This group includes Durjoy Prasad Das' "Waiting For a Nice Time", Taufiqur Rahman's "Living Dream", Rajib Roy's "Vertical Line", Ridwanor Saifee's "Broken Image-14" are included in the group. Very few painters' themes are based on nature. The artists have employed semi-realistic and abstract styles. This group includes Abu Kalam Shamsuddin's "Nature-3", Shamsur Nahar Shobnom's "Nature-2" and Sanjoy Bikash Das' "Expression". A number of participating painters have demonstrated surrealistic and photo-realistic styles.

Bishwajit Goswami is one of the winners of the competition. Goswami's work highlight the inner journey of a Baul singer. The artist meticulously articulated the Baul's passion. Sweep brush is another facet of his works but his canvas needs space for denoting the figures and objects.

Nazmul Haque Bappy is another winning artist, who has done a bird's eye view of city life. The painting grasps the hustle and bustle of city life. Bappy has splendidly arranged the image in different combinations of light and shade. The canvas is dominated by subdued colours, of which azure and light green are prominent.

Shadia Shamim Monsur's "Brikker Joto Kotha-2" shows a strange whitish flower drooping from an imaginary plant. It vibrates with an intensity of colour, whose existence is uncertain.

Another winner Abanti Chakma, from the Chittagong Hill Tracts, has presented indigenous girls as a symbol of beauty. Her canvas is a frank celebration of womanhood, as seen from a female viewpoint. The image is also engrossed with alphabets that denote her affection for her land, heritage and language. Space and the colours create a soothing language on the canvas.

Uttam Kumar Roy is one of the innovative painters at the competition. His "Eternal Desire-1" represents a symbolic and physical escape from the usual flat surface and traditional use of colour. In recent time, he has changed his working style. Thick colours are a dominant feature of his work.

A constant play between fantasy and reality marks M.M. Maizuddin's canvas. His "Organism-1", reveals a nude figure's movement while the rest of the canvas features animal visages.

The exhibition ends on December 25.



The exhibition was formally inaugurated by Rupali Chowdhury, managing director of Berger Paints Ltd; artists Rafiqun Nabi (2-R) and Qayyum Chowdhury (R) also seen in the photo.



(Clockwise from top-left): Artworks by Nazmul Haque Bappy, Abanti Chakma, Rajib Roy and Uttam Kumar Roy.

Call to support quality films

Farooki and Tisha accorded reception in Pabna

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Filmmaker Mostafa Sarwar Farooki and actress Tisha were accorded a reception in Pabna last Tuesday evening when they arrived at the Rupkotha Cinema Hall in town, which is screening Farooki's "Third Person Singular Number". The reception was held at the movie theatre.

The filmmaker and actress urged the audience to support quality Bangla films.

If a sensible audience goes to the movie theatres more, the production of meaningful films would increase. Directors would be interested in making more quality films for the

audience, they were of the view.

Tisha, who played the protagonist of "Third Person Singular Number", asked all to support the film industry.

"There is a common complaint that the number of quality films are dwindling and that the environment of movie theatres is not healthy. The situation can improve only when people start coming back to the cinema halls," Tisha said.

Managing director of Rupkotha Cinema Hall, Sohani Hossain, also spoke on the occasion. Earlier she received the filmmaker and actress with flowers at the movie theatre. Later Farooki and Tisha talked to the audience and exchanged views on the film.



A scene from "Third Person Singular Number".

Simon Cowell leaving "American Idol"?



Simon Cowell

As if Paula Abdul's exit from the "American Idol" judging panel wasn't enough of a shock to the audience, then this news will leave them speechless. Tony Cowell, Simon's older brother, revealed in his weekly podcast "The Cowell Factor" that the upcoming ninth season of the show will be Simon's last, as he's focused on bringing his British talent competition "X-Factor" to the States.

"Meanwhile, Simon prepares for a new season of 'Idol' -- or should I say, his last season of 'Idol,'" Tony said in the December 19th episode. "A press statement is being prepared which will confirm what everybody expected: Simon will leave

'Idol' at the end of 2010 to concentrate on bringing the American version of 'X Factor' to U.S. in 2011."

This conflicts with earlier news reports in which Robert Sillerman -- CEO of CKX, the parent company of "Idol" and co-producer 19 Entertainment -- said Cowell was in negotiations to renew his contract for another three seasons.

In August, Paula Abdul confirmed that she would not be returning to the show. Rumours surfaced that Abdul was not happy with the amount of money she was offered to renew her contract.

And while the network and show producers weren't able to work things out with Abdul, they did find a replacement. In September it was announced that Ellen DeGeneres would take a permanent seat on the judging panel. The show's host Ryan Seacrest also renewed his contract for the next three seasons. Last season's new addition, Kara DioGuardi, is on board for the upcoming season as well as Randy Jackson, who is under contract until the end of the current season.

Source: MTV

Akshay's Olympic run interrupted by protesters

Bollywood action-hero Akshay Kumar could not complete his stint as a torch bearer for the 2010 Winter Olympics in the wake of protesters accusing the government of ignoring the indigenous people.

The 42-year-old actor helped carry the Olympic flame into Toronto on December 17 but could not finish his 300-metre run as protesters blocked the street.

However Akshay's fans lined-up the streets to catch a glimpse of their cine idol.

The protests caused a one-hour-delay and the officials had to divert the route.

Hundreds of policemen intervened to remove the agitators who kept shouting slogans of "No Olympics," against the holding of the sports extravaganza on lands taken away from the original natives of Canada.

Moments before the arrival of Akshay the organisers were worried if the Bollywood star had enough security.

After the star arrived a group of fans rushed to him. Akshay was one of the 14 torchbearers for the Winter Olympics which will be held in Vancouver between February 12-28, 2010 and his involvement was announced by the Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper during his two-day India visit.

Earlier in a press conference in Toronto, the actor had said that he was honoured to have been chosen as a torch bearer, adding that Canada was like a "second home to him".

"I'm here because I love sports," he explained of his involvement, adding that he plans to be in Vancouver for the games and is hoping to be able to get some tickets to a hockey game or two.

Hockey is a sport that will be featured in a movie he'll be making here next year.

Akshay said he's made seven or eight films in

Toronto and Vancouver. He is also active in the community and has helped raise money for hospitals in both cities.

Wearing long johns under his white torch-bearer's tracksuit, Akshay said he wasn't worried about the cold.

"I just love Canada. The people are so warm even though the weather is so cold," he said.

Akshay carrying the flame in downtown Toronto was part of a \$26-million strategy by the government to leverage tourism opportunities presented by the Vancouver Games.

Source: Internet

