

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Selim Al Deen Death Anniversary
Organiser: Dhaka Theatre
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: January 14-15
Time: 8:45am onwards



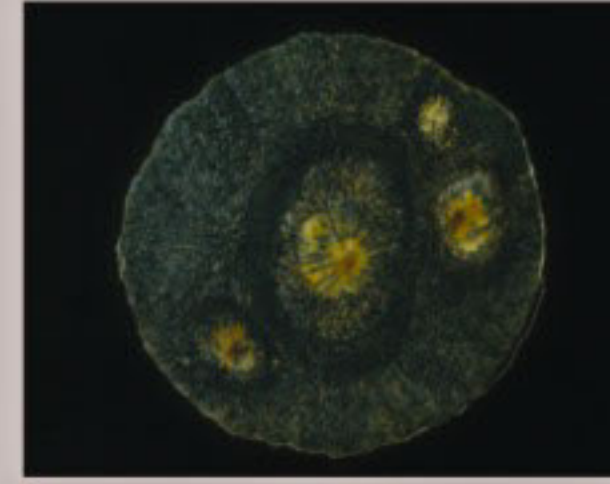
Painting Exhibition

Title: Language Movement Raving into Liberation War
Painter: Biren Shome
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H 26, Rd 3, Dhanmondi
Date: January 4-20
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Image
Artist: Mohammad Fokhrul Islam
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: January 4-15
Time: 9am-12pm & 5-8pm



Solo Drawing Exhibition

Title: The Surge of Emotion
Artist: Shahabuddin
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, F/40-41, North Super Market, 2nd Circle, Gulshan
Date: January 4-19
Time: 10am-8pm



5th Citycell-Channel i Music Awards

Dr. Sanjida Khatun honoured with lifetime achievement award

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The gala event of the 5th Citycell-Channel i Music Awards was held at Winter Garden, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on January 12. Eminent artiste, cultural activist, music exponent and President of Chhayanaut, Dr. Sanjida Khatun received the lifetime achievement award at this year's instalment of the awards.

Like last year, this year's music awards also featured twenty categories, though there was no submission in the Best Underground Band and Best Classical (Vocal). Amongst the twenty, four awards were given based on popular votes (SMS).

The ceremony started with conferring the lifetime achievement award. Dr. Sanjida Khatun received the award for her contribution to music, education, research, diffusing traditional values and upholding Bengali culture through organising people.

CEO of Citycell, Michael Seymour, and Managing Director of Impress Telefilm Ltd, Faridur Reza Sagar jointly handed over a crest, a certificate and cheque worth Tk 100,000 to Dr. Sanjida Khatun. Veteran Nazrul exponent and Sanjida's guru Sohrab Hossain joined in to honour her on stage. Later the duo rendered excerpt of a Nazrul Sangeet, "Shedin Bolechhiley".

Born in Dhaka on April 4, 1932, Sanjida Khatun completed her MA in Bangla Language and Literature from Dhaka University (DU). In 1955 she attained a degree on Rabindra Sangeet with distinction from Visva Bharati University. Later she joined DU as a teacher and engaged herself at Chhayanaut Sangeet Bidyayatan.

"I learned Nazrul Sangeet, folk songs and *adhunik* from my guru Sohrab Hossain. Later I learned Rabindra Sangeet on my own," said Dr. Khatun.

Roquaiya Hasina Neely received the award in Rabindra Sangeet category. Parveen Sultana for the album "Khushir Eid" received award in Nazrul Sangeet, while Satyajit Chakraborti received the Best Classical (Instrumental) award for the album "Udashi". Bishwajit Roy received the Best Folk Artiste award for his album



Faridur Reza Sagar (left) and Michael Seymour hand over the crest to Dr. Sanjida Khatun.



Suvro Dev and Ferdous Ara perform at the show.

"Radha Raman-er Gaan".

Aurthohin received the Best Band award for its album "Oshomapto-1". The album "Akririm" earned Jewel the Best Sound Engineering award while the song "Tomaye Chhara" from the film "Priya Amar Priya" bagged the Best Soundtrack Award.

Samina Chowdhury for the album "Banshir Shurey Bangladesh" and Mehreen for the album "Tumi Achho Boley", respectively, received the Best Adhunik singer and Best Pop singer awards.

Pushpita was named the Best Emerging Artiste for her album "Chhoto Chhoto Asha". Other awards

went to Manam Ahmed (Best Music Director), Zulfikar Russell (Best Lyricist), Plan-B, a company, (Best Cover Design) and Obhik (Best Music Video).

The four popular awards went to -- Anindita (Best Emerging Artiste), Durbin (Best Band), Samina Chowdhury (Best Adhunik Song) and the song "Mon-er Jorey Cholechhey Deho" from the film "Swapnapuron" (Best Soundtrack).

Prior to announcing the awards, Michael Seymour and Faridur Reza Sagar delivered welcome speeches at the event.

One of the highlights of the

programme was a fusion performance titled "Rakto Diyechhilo Bangali Ekdin Bhashar Jonno", mingling both classical and folk tunes, rendered by Suvro Dev and Ferdous Ara. Another attraction was back-to-back renditions of Rabindra, Nazrul, folk and *adhunik* songs by four noted artistes -- Aditi Mohsin, Shaheen Samad, Chandana Majumdar and Samina Chowdhury. Fuad Al-Muqtadir and others performed an instrumental. Agun, Fahmida Nabi, Hridoy Khan, Konal, Imran also performed songs on the occasion. Among the bands, Warfaze and Dolchhut performed at the show.

11th Dhaka Int'l Film Festival begins today



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 11th Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF) begins today with the screening of Malaysian filmmaker Yasmin Ahmed's "Tale N Time". High hopes have emerged surrounding the festival among the Dhaka film enthusiasts, as it is the biggest event of its kind.

This year, the organisers expect to screen approximately 200 films from 66 countries. Organised by Rainbow Film Society, the inaugural takes place this afternoon at the National Museum premises. Premier of the country Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the festival.

The festival will be held from January 14 to 22. The theme of the festival is "Better Film, Better Audience, Better Society." The festival aims to promote a better cine culture in Bangladesh and to celebrate the social relevance of cinema. DIFF has attained international recognition with ten festivals, beginning from 1992. The 10th DIFF in 2008 featured around 100 films from 30 countries.

The festival will have a competition involving Asian cinema and includes categories -- Retrospective, Tribute(s), Cinema of the World, Children's Films, Focus, Bangladesh Panorama, Women Filmmakers, Independent Films Section and Spiritual Films Section.

Films from Asia and Australia with a mini-

mum length of 70 minutes will feature in the competition section. A five-member international jury will adjudicate the best film. The Best Film award carries a cash prize of Tk 100,000. FIPRESCI, the International Film Critics Federation, will also present its own awards in this category.

Several films -- from 1956 to 2009 -- have been selected for Bangladesh Panorama. The Independent Films section will highlight experimental films in a variety of formats.

The Women Filmmakers section will screen full-length feature films as well as short and documentary films. The Spiritual section is being introduced to promote public discourse on the place of faith and spirituality in the current context. The section includes 20 to 25 films from all over the world.

A group of international film personalities will attend the festival. A series of seminars by renowned film personalities will be held on January 16 and 17. Topics include aesthetics, spiritual cinema, impact of film festivals on third world cinema, the challenges of independent filmmaking and DIFF -- creating a conclave of cultures.

Everyday films will be screened in five sessions starting from 10:30am at National Museum and Central Public Library. Independent filmmaker and film organiser Ahmed Muztaba Zamal is the festival director.



A scene from "Tale N Time", opening film of the festival today.

Buzz

Shabnoor paired with newcomer Arzu

A CORRESPONDENT

Leading film actress Shabnoor has been paired with newcomers in Dhallywood -- such as Nadim and Emon -- time and again. This time the actress has been cast with young actor Arzu who created ripples with his debut film "Tumi Achho Hridoye".

Audiences of mainstream films will get to watch the duo in the movie "Jibon Nadir Tirey", directed by Monir Hossain Mithu. Mithu has worked as an assistant

for noted filmmakers like Dilip Biswas, Shibly Sadik, Jibon Rahman and Jibon Chowdhury.

Details on the film will be revealed soon. Shooting for the film is expected to begin from February 1 at Shushong Durgapur in Netrakona.

Written by Zaman Akhtar, the cast of the film also includes Dolly Zahur, Sadek Bachchu and Afzal Sharif. Debendranath Chattapadhyay (of "Moner Majhey Tumi" fame) is the music director of the film.



Erratum

In the January 11, 2010 issue of Arts & Entertainment, in the write up titled "Premiere of new TV serial 'FnF' held," our report stated that "Asaduzzaman Noor MP attended the event" and spoke on the occasion. Instead of Asaduzzaman Noor, it should have read "Shoeb Md. Asaduzzaman, head of sales and marketing, BEOL" on both occasions. We deeply regret the error.

Saraswati puja keeps sculptors busy



Nil Komol and Tapas Pal making Saraswati idols.

PHOTO: STAR

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Two sculptors from Faridpur, Nil Komol and Tapas Pal are busy making idols of the Goddess of knowledge and arts ahead of Saraswati Puja in Jhenidah. The popular Hindu festival will be observed on January 20. Educational institutes and Hindu families perform the puja to pay obeisance to the goddess.

While talking to this correspondent the sculptor said that they had taken on the occupation of their forefathers. Every year, they added, they leave their homes in the Bengali month of Shraban and return home in Baishaikh. During this long period they mould many statues out of clay such as those of Durga, Katyani, Kali and Basanti. They are far from idle when they return

home as they take to sculpting Ragchandi, Shitala and Badyanath.

Currently they are making Saraswati idols at Kaliganj College puja *mondop*. They have made 130 such statues at this location. The production cost of each statue is Taka 160-180, while they sell them at Taka 300-600 each. The larger size statues go at Taka 600 per piece. They earn at least Taka 12,000-14,000 respectively and maintain their family on this income.

Nil Komol said that he had to drop out of school due to extreme poverty. Consequently his mother advised him to take up his father's profession so that he could get two square meals a day. When asked about his sons' education he said, he could ill afford their educational expenses on his meagre income.

Simon Cowell confirms his departure from 'American Idol'

"American Idol" fans, start preparing those goodbye tributes: Simon Cowell announced recently that this year's ninth season will be his last. The irascible judge told the media that he will team with Fox to launch a stateside version of his popular UK show "The X Factor" in fall 2011. "We did talk about me staying on both shows but when we looked at the practicalities of that, it was impossible," Cowell told the press. "In my opinion, it's like having a good player and a good football team. The two have to be okay together. I believe it's not my show, but it's still very close to me. We made sure when we did this, that I would be protected. I'm confident it will continue to be the No. 1 show. Everyone is committed to keeping it that way."

Like "Idol", "X Factor" is a televised talent search that pits contestants against one another and the prize is usually a recording contract. The UK version was responsible for the launch of Leona Lewis, among others. The show divides contestants into four categories -- guys, girls, groups, and singers of all ages -- and already airs in many countries. "It's a big, big production," said Cowell. "There is no upper age limit on X Factor and groups are allowed to enter. We gave ourselves time to set it up. It gives us time to work out who the judging panel will be."

Cowell said he was offered more money to stay on "Idol" but it wasn't about the cash. "I felt like doing something different," he said. "I want to leave 'Idol' this year bigger and better than it's ever been before. Having already done the auditions, it feels fresh, it feels relevant. I like the contestants this year. This final year for me feels different. I never would have wanted to walk out when the show was No. 21 in the ratings. You want to leave on a high. It's been a fantastic time. We're going to do something new."

As for Cowell's replacement, the Fox suits said they have plenty of time to figure out how to make up for the huge void. "We are not going to find a Simon clone to do what he does because he is one of a kind," said Peter Rice, Fox entertainment chairman. "The reason we are making the announcement in January is to give ourselves time and allow people to come forward. We were frankly surprised at the enthusiasm in replacing Paula. We have to make sure the chemistry is as good as it can be. So I don't think we will rush into that." As for Ellen DeGeneres' quip to EW recently about her threatening to bolt if Cowell leaves, Rice deadpanned, "I think she was making a joke."

Source: Internet