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| <p>WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK</p> | <p>Calligraphy Exhibition Calligrapher: Najib Tareque Venue: Impressions Gallery, 67, Gulshan Avenue Date: August 19-September 19 Time: 9:30am-2:30pm and 4-5pm (Sunday-Thursday) and 10am-1pm (Saturday)</p>  | <p>Photography Exhibition Title: Ramadan in the Middle East Photographer: Christel Becker-Rau Venue: Coalte-Institut Bangladesh, H-10, Rd-9, Dhanmondi Date: August 9-September 9 Time: 10am-8pm</p>  | <p>Photography Exhibition Title: Apparitions and Cinographies Photographer: Jean-Philippe PERNOT Venue: Bengal Gallery, H-275/F, R-16, Dhanmondi Date: August 27-Sept 2 Time: 12pm-8pm</p>  | <p>Photo Exhibition To mark Int'l Day of Tourism and Moscow Region Title: Tourist Sights of Moscow and Moscow Region Venue: Modern Language Institute, DU Date: September 2-28</p>  |
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'Shaheed Altaf Mahmood Padak'

Sudhin Das and Bipul Bhattacharya receive awards



Sudhin Das presents the award money to Kumkum, to assist in Bhattacharya's medical treatment. PHOTO: MUMIT M.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nazrul exponent Sudhin Das and Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artiste Bipul Bhattacharya received this year's 'Shaheed Altaf Mahmood Padak'. Organised by Shaheed Altaf Mahmood Foundation, the award giv-

ing ceremony was held on August 30 at the Liberation War Museum in Dhaka. Altaf Mahmood was abducted by the Pakistani army on this day during the Liberation War.

Motiur Rahman, editor of the Bangla daily Prothom Alo, was the chief guest at the

programme. Freedom fighter Shahidullah Khan presided over the event. Among others, Mofidul Haque, one of the trustees, Liberation War Museum; theatre personality Nasiruddin Yousuff and director general of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Kamal Lohani spoke at the

programme. Sudhin Das and Bipul Bhattacharya received the awards for their contributions to Bangla music. Bhattacharya was unable to attend the programme because of his current illness. His wife Kumkum Bhattacharya received the

crest on his behalf. The award also carries money. Sudhin Das presented the award money to Kumkum, to assist in Bhattacharya's medical treatment.

At the programme, the speakers discussed on the life and works of Shaheed Altaf Mahmood and urged everyone to remember the composer with highest admiration. In his speech, Motiur Rahman recalled his acquaintance with Mahmood.

A brief cultural programme was also held at the venue. Nazrul singers Shaheen Samad, Dalia Nawshin and noted theatre activist Shimul Yousuf rendered songs composed by Mahmood. The renditions included "Amra Purbo Poshchimey" and musical adaptation of Kazi Nazrul Islam's "Bidrohi". Jharna Sarkar recited a poem "Babar Nazrul", dedicating it to Mahmood.

Altaf Mahmood is best known for his music composition of "Amar Bhai-er Roktey Rangano Ekushey February". He composed music for at least 20 films during the period of 1964-'71. Mahmood actively took part in the guerrilla operation in Dhaka during the Liberation War.



Shaheen Samad, Dalia Nawshin and Shimul Yousuf render songs composed by Mahmood.



From Chittagong

Satyajit Chakraborty: Profile of a sitarist

A CORRESPONDENT

Satyajit Chakraborty has been playing the sitar for almost three decades. He has had the privilege of learning sitar from some of the most renowned sitarists. Currently a staff musician at the Bangladesh Betar (radio), he performs at various programmes

regularly across the country and occasionally in India. His solo musical album was released by Laser Vision in 2008. The Daily Star (TDS) caught up with the artiste:

TDS: How did you start? Why did you choose sitar?

Satyajit: I started taking sitar lessons in 1972. My father and elder brother used to play sitar. This cer-

tainly had an influence on me. The sound of the instrument sparked awe in me. There was a Hiren Roy sitar at our place; Roy was the best sitar-maker of India at the time. I come from a culturally oriented family, and my younger brother plays the tabla. But none of us considered taking music as profession.

TDS: Who were your Gurus?

Satyajit: My father, Ustad Binod Bihari Chakraborty -- a disciple of Khalifa Badal Khan (a renowned musician of the subcontinent) -- was my first guru. I also trained under sitar maestro Pandit Ajoy Sinha Roy. He was one of the musicians who composed the musical scores of "Pather Panchali".

TDS: What is the future of sitar in Bangladesh, according to you?

Satyajit: I feel that the future is bleak. There is no incentive to encourage young, aspiring artistes. You need money for everything; you need around Tk half a lakh to buy a good sitar.

Contemporary musical productions often do not speak of dedication to the arts. The society needs to understand that market-based incentives do not support the creation of good music. Patronage is needed to sustain our rich cultural heritage. You will see that the top artistes are honoured, but their accompanying instrumentalists are not treated with the same respect. You must not protect only the banyan tree, but also the little supporting trees which give oxygen as well in order to create a beautiful environment. New students are coming up in few numbers, but almost none of them will be able to take this up as their sole occupation, unless there are patrons in the society who understand their value. After all, without Mughal Emperor Akbar's patronage, the world would have never known that there was a maestro called Tansen.



Eid Special

Tele-film "Poltibaj" on Rtv

A CORRESPONDENT

Tele-film "Poltibaj" will be aired on Rtv on the day of Eid-ul-Fitr at 2:45 pm. Written and directed by Masud Sezan, the cast of the tele-film includes Mosharraf Karim, Tisha, Adnan Faruk Hillol and Mishu Sabbir.

The story of the film revolves around an unpredictable love affair. Riya is new in the

neighbourhood. Suman and Sabbir are close friends. Sabbir likes Riya but cannot express his feelings for her. Riya seemingly enjoys Sabbir's weakness for her. Sabbir shares his predicament with Suman and seeks his help in this regard. Approaching Riya, Suman himself falls for her. Understanding Suman's intentions, Riya decides to play her own little game with the two friends.



Tisha in a scene from the film.

Jackson's body may be exhumed

King of Pop Michael Jackson's body may have to be exhumed in a bid to prove that his doctor is innocent.

Lawyers for Dr. Conrad Murray plan to challenge the singer's autopsy, which found he killed him with an overdose of sedative Propofol.

They want to show that the singer could have died from other drug use.

However, they may demand his body be dug up for new tests ahead of Murray's trial next year to prove their theory.

A key find could be needle marks not made by the doctor.

Murray's legal team hopes to get the cardiologist's involuntary manslaughter charges thrown out by trying to convince a judge to have the singer's body unearthed.

Lead attorney Ed Chernoff has already got the green light to re-test tissue samples removed and frozen after Jackson, 50, died last June.

Jackson is buried at a mausoleum in Los Angeles.

Source: Internet



Oprah Winfrey's grand TV exit plan

Oprah Winfrey has expressed her desire to host the final episode of her TV show in a huge open-air football stadium in

Chicago. The media mogul is planning a star-studded finale in September 2011, when the Oprah Winfrey

Show will end its 25-year run on USTV.

And the talk show queen has hinted she wants to move the production from her Chicago, Illinois studio to the city's 61,500 capacity Soldier Field -- the home of the Chicago Bears football team -- in a bid to pack in a bigger audience.

But Winfrey has admitted the notoriously unpredictable climate in Chicago could scupper plans for an open-air finale.

"I don't know if that's going to happen. You can never count on Chicago weather," the Daily Express quoted her.

The star is stepping down from her syndicated talk show to run the Oprah Winfrey Network.



Source: Internet