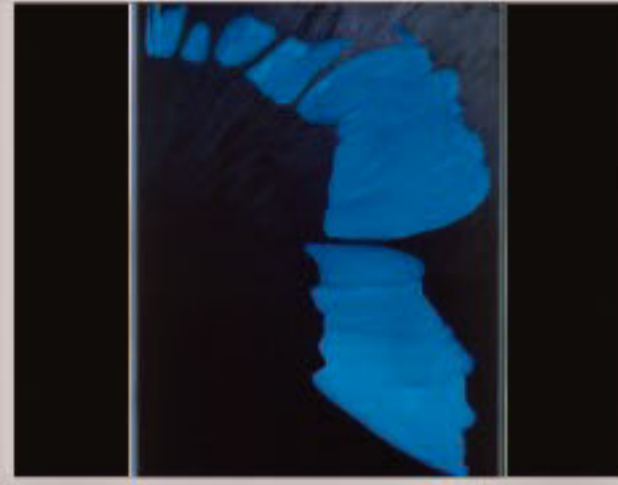


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: The Wing
 Artist: Murtaja Baseer
 Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, R-16 Sector 4, Uttara
 Date: September 25-October 10
 Time: 10am-8pm



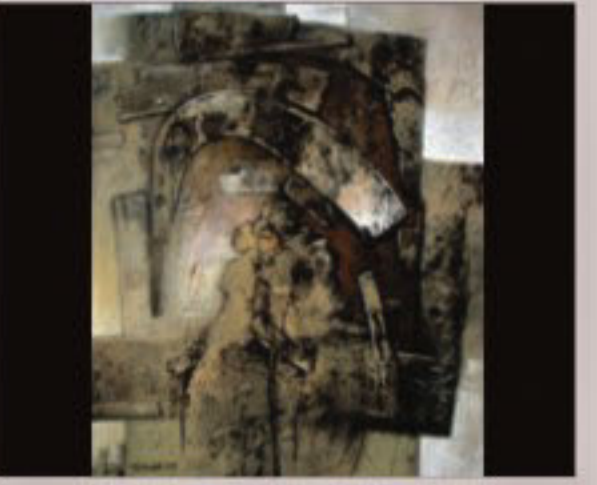
Painting and Installation Exhibition
 Title: Dhaka Traffic: the City Can't Wait
 Artist: Sulekha Chowdhury
 Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, Dhanmondi
 Date: October 4-28



Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: Nepotism
 Artist: Srijon Chowdhury
 Venue: La Galerie, H 7B, Rd 13, Gulshan
 Date: September 24-October 8
 Time: 12-8pm



Group Art Exhibition
 Venue: Radius Centre, Bay's Galleria
 Date: September 24-October 8
 Time: 10am-8pm



Durga Puja around the corner

Dhak and dhol in great demand

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

As Durga Puja draws near, Narayan Chandra Das, an expert in making dhak (big drums) and dhol (smaller drums) has his hands full. When this correspondent met him at his shop on Kalibari Road in the town he was hard at work trying to meet orders from in and outside the district.

So far he has received orders for 20 dhak and 25 dhol. Orders have also poured in from Jamalpur, Sherpur, Tangail, Kishoreganj and Netrokona districts, says the 65-year-old Narayan, who stepped into this profession at a very early age.

"The volume of orders is higher than previous years and this is true of every year as we have to keep pace with the increasing number of puja mandap (venues where public celebrations are held)," said an elated Narayan.

Narayan's son Suvash Das told this correspondent that the profits are higher than previous years as well, and the family hopes business will pick up further. As the price of animal hide, bamboo and jute, required to make these percussion instruments have increased, the sale prices of the finished products have also increased, he said.

But Suvash also lamented that since making musical instruments is less profitable than many other professions, workers are fewer. "If there were more workers, we would have taken more orders and earned higher profits," he added.

Sadhan Das, a worker from Gheur, under Manikganj district, told this correspondent that he usually earns Taka 3,000 per month excluding all his expenditure. "I took up this profession



Narayan Chandra Das busy working at his shop.

PHOTO: STAR

following in the footsteps of my forefathers and enjoy it," he said.

Naresh Das, from Madhupur in Tangail, who supplies dhak and dhol to shops in Mymensingh and Tangail, pointed out that he is very busy on

occasions like Durga Puja, Kali Puja and Pahela Baishakh.

"As dhak and dhol are inseparable parts of festivals like Durga and Kali Puja, the demand for craftsmen in this profession will continue," Biplob

Kumar Dev, a trader at Aampatati in the town, said. However, the concerned authorities should support the people involved in this profession so that they can eke out a reasonable living, he said.

Comic legend Sir Norman Wisdom passes away

Comedian Sir Norman Wisdom peacefully passed away on Monday evening at a nursing home on the Isle of Man, his son has confirmed.

The London-born star had suffered a series of strokes over the last six months, causing a decline in his mental and physical health.

His family said he was in "no pain or distress" and asked for time to grieve for a "much loved father and grandfather."

Sir Norman, who was knighted by the Queen in 2000, was best known for his slapstick roles and famously played hapless Norman Pitkin in a series of films between 1953 and 1966.

Charlie Chaplin famously described him as his favourite clown and once told him: "You will follow in my footsteps."

"His comic timing was absolutely perfect, second to none, and not only a great comic, but also a wonderful, wonderful person," said his agent Johnny Mans.

Phil Day, his publicist since 1969, added: "He never turned down any request. He never threw a tantrum. He was 100 per cent professional all of the time."



"Of all the artistes I've ever worked with, he's been the closest. It's a sad day."

Source: Internet

Keira Knightley is fed up of pirates

Keira Knightley has revealed that she doesn't regret not appearing in the next "Pirates Of The Caribbean" film as she thinks that she has had enough of it already.

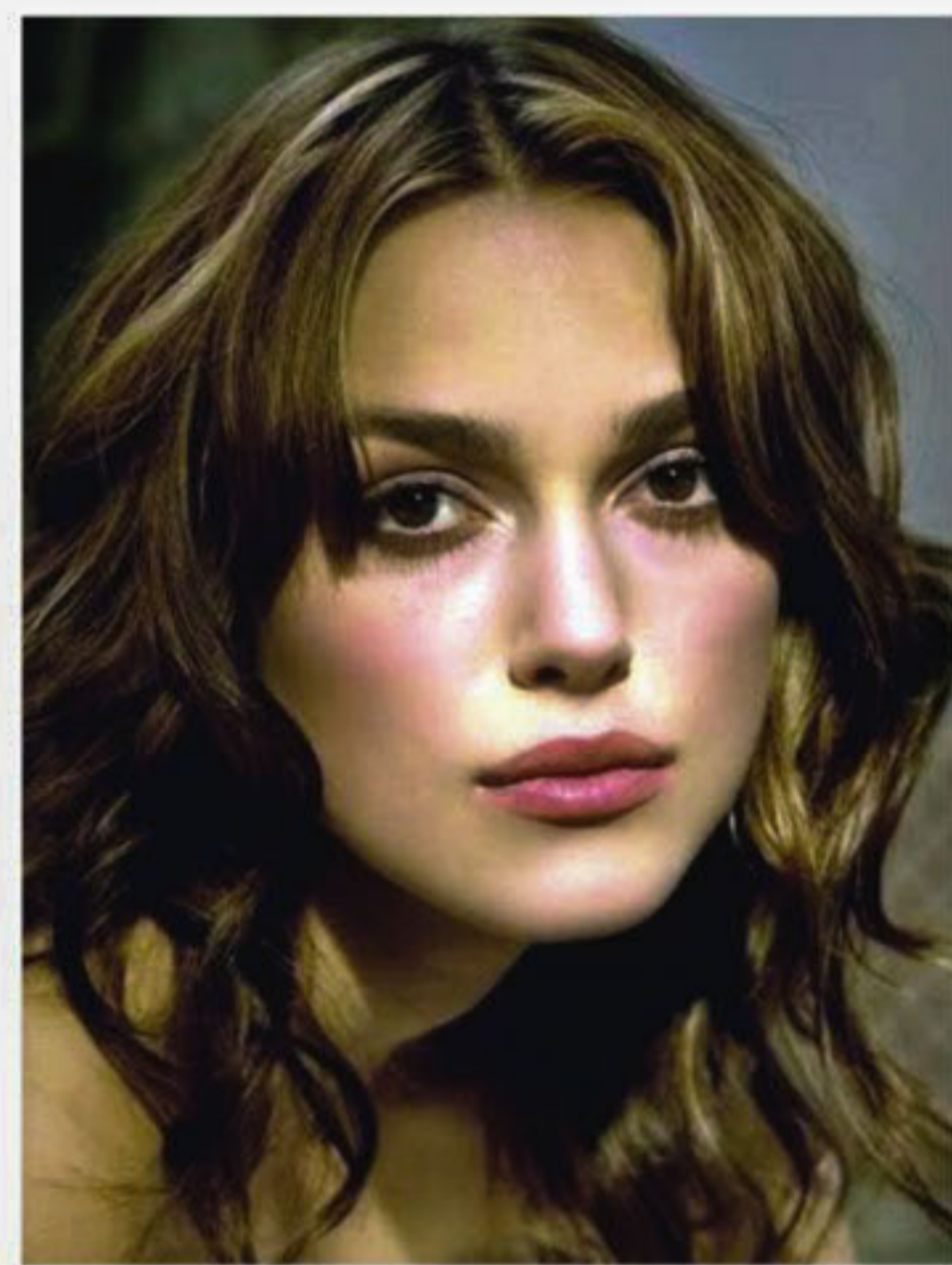
The 25-year-old actress had starred alongside Johnny Depp in the first three movies but decided not to return for the latest instalment, which is currently being filmed in Greenwich, southeast London.

"I had an amazing time on it, it was a rather substantial chunk of my life. I was 17 when I started it and 21 when I finished. And I think that was enough for me. I'm on a different path," the Daily Express quoted Knightley.

Knightley, who stars in the new film "Never Let Me Go", looks forward to the Pirates franchise.

"I can't wait to see the new one, I'm sure it's going to be fantastic," she added.

Source: Internet



Conversation with the butterflies

-- Abida and Arjun

DITHI HASNAT

Abida and her "Projapotita Jokhon Tokhon" became synonymous almost four years ago. She proved that one can become famous with just one good song. The lighthearted song was featured in Arnob's mixed album "Jhalmuri". The album (a set of two CDS) enjoyed a great public response and the FM radio stations played the songs of "Jhalmuri", especially Abida's song "Projapotita". Recently, Abida and Arjun worked together for the film "Phirey Esho Behula". The song from the film, "Bhalobasha Tomar Ghorey", has been written by Arjun and set to tune by Abida.

Abida comes from a musically oriented family. Her father is a singer and was the secretary of Udichi Shilpi Goshhti. Abida says, "My father used to take me to Udichi's rehearsals and various cultural programmes. I used to listen to traditional Bangla songs, particularly Gano Sangeet. I grew up in a cultural environment."

Did she enjoy music lessons as a child though?

"Doing rewaz (practice) was not one of my favourite activities. I didn't enjoy practicing music at all at that age. It was my parents who forced me to do rewaz regularly, otherwise they wouldn't even talk to me. They encouraged me to participate in cultural competitions. I won several awards as a child artiste. After finishing school, I was detached from music for a while but when I was a first year student at Jahangirnagar University, I had the thirst for music again. I wrote and tuned 'Projapotita' at that time," she says.

How did she meet Arjun?

According to Abida, "I met Arjun at the Aziz Super Market for the first time. I heard him talk seriously about a raga. He ignored me during our first encounter.



Abida (left) and Arjun.

Eventually we formed a musical group called 'Gayen'. We got married two years ago."

What is the story behind your new song "Bhalobasha Tomar Ghorey"?

"Actually it was Arjun who sent me the song. He sent me the lyrics in a text message. After a few days I set tune to it, says Abida.

Arjun's side of the story, "I wrote that song when I was in class 9. I was greatly influenced by modern poetry of the '30s, particularly works of Binoy Majumdar, Jibanananda Das and so on. When I was a child, my elder sister used to take classical music lessons from Anil Gurujee. I don't know why I was moved by those ragas. Slowly, music became my passion and source of pleasure. My ear for music

was what gave me the voice. When I was in class twelve, I began learning classical music formally. Becoming a good listener first is very important besides learning classical music. People don't understand music well because they don't feel it. Feeling music is absolutely essential for becoming a good musician.

Tanim Nur, a friend of ours, insisted that we use the song "Bhalobasha Tomar Ghorey" for his digital film."

Abida looks into the future: "Now I want to work as a music director rather than just as singer. I only want to sing my or Arjun's compositions. Currently we are busy with my solo album. Most of the songs are ready but we have to record them."



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