

<p><b>WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK</b></p>	<p><b>Solo Art Exhibition</b>                  Title: Cosmic Unity &amp; An Unfit Citizen                  Artist: Aminul Islam Soyel                  Venue: Kaya Galleri, H-20, R-16, Sector-4, Uttara                  Date: October 15-26                  Time: 11am-8pm</p> 	<p><b>Exhibition</b>                  Paintings, Installations, Photography, Films, Literature and Architecture                  Title: Dhaka Safe and Sound                  Organiser: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh                  Venue: Goethe-Institut, Shilpangan Gallery and Dhaka Art Centre                  Date: October 18-30                  Inauguration: 6pm</p> 	<p><b>Group Art Exhibition</b>                  Title: Life of a Vagabond                  Venue: Tivoli Art Gallery, DIT Market, Gulshan-2                  Date: October 11-20                  Time: 10am-8pm</p> 	<p><b>Group Art Exhibition</b>                  Title: Rooted Creativity-5                  Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi                  Date: October 15-26                  Time: 12pm-8pm</p> 
-----------------------------------	---	---	--	--

## Creative visions for an environmentally friendly city

“Dhaka Safe and Sound” begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Goethe Institut-Bangladesh has organised a festival titled “Dhaka Safe and Sound”. The festival includes painting, installation and photography exhibitions; film screenings; live performances; theatre and workshops involving literature, architecture and science. The venues are Goethe Institut in Dhaka, Dhaka Art Centre and Shilpangan Art Gallery. Several well-known and promising artistes are participating at the festival.

The festival was jointly inaugurated by Mahfuz Anam, editor of The Daily Star and veteran artist Rafiqun Nabi on October 18 at Goethe Institut in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. The festival will run till the end of this month.

Mahfuz Anam said, “At present, the city’s traffic



Artist Rafiqun Nabi speaks at the opening of the festival.

situation has turned into an absolute mess. Overpopulation and unplanned urbanisation are constantly stressing city life, according to him.

Anam criticised some plans of RAJUK. Lack of vision, awareness and trained staff as well as corruption are the main reasons behind the

city’s current situation.

“Children have no playgrounds. Schools have no space for recreation either. Children are detached from

social and cultural events, and are occupied with computers and video games. Urban people are becoming increasingly alienated from each other,” he said. He emphasised on the role of media and collective efforts to regain the city’s lost glory.

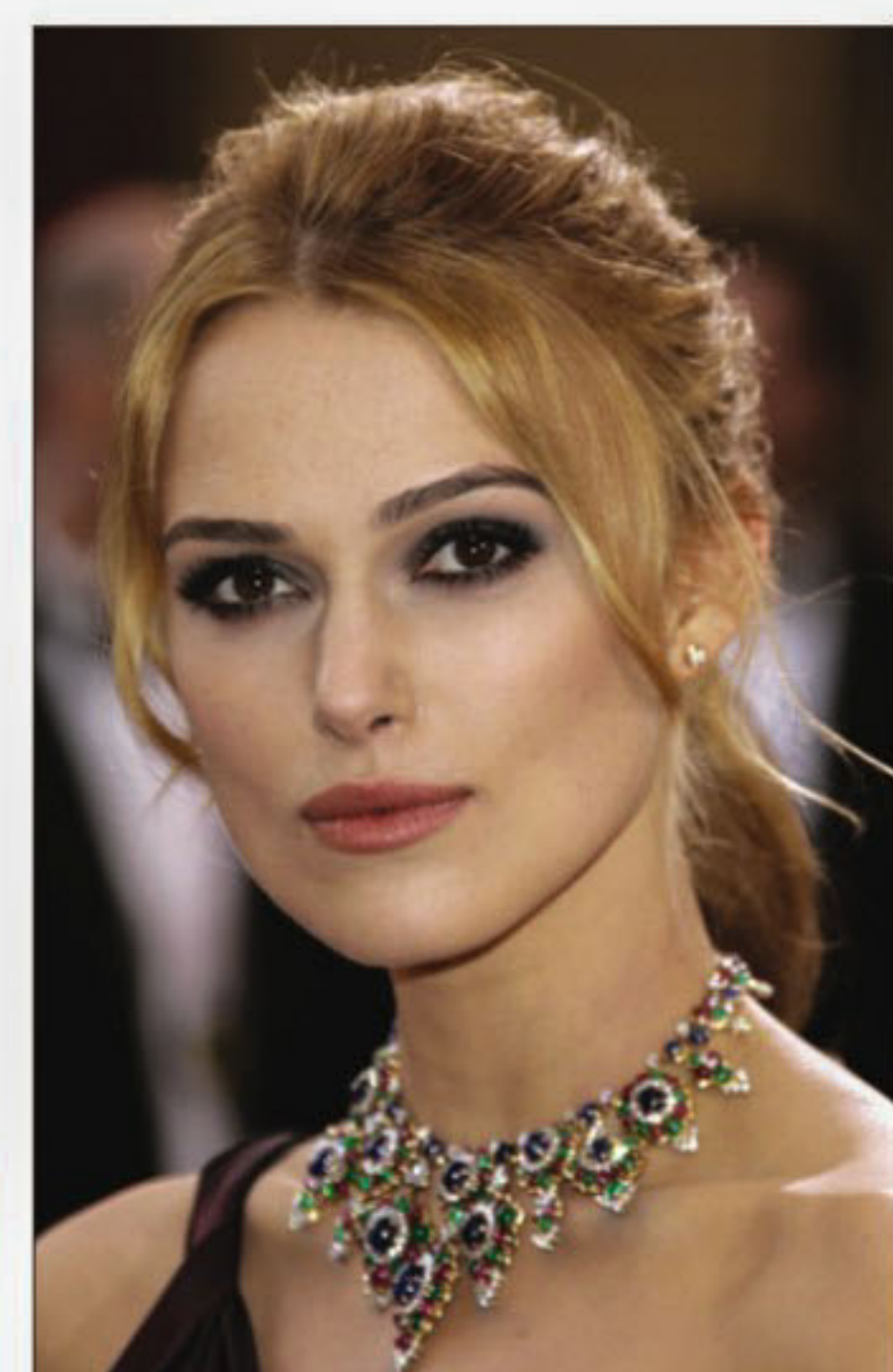
Rafiqun Nabi said, “I have been living in this city since childhood. We now live in a city where life is constantly under threat. I have been doing cartoons on the city since the mid ‘60s and I always try to highlight issues that affect urban life. The city has been gradually losing its charm. We should work jointly to make this city a better place.”

In recent times, Goethe Institut has organised a number of solo exhibitions and installation shows on varied environmental issues.

## Keira Knightley to play princess Diana?



Princess Diana



Keira Knightley

Keira Knightley is set to play princess Diana in a new movie called “Diana” based on the life of the Princess of Wales.

Knightley is at the top of the list of a number of actresses lined up to play Diana. And producers at film company Pathe are keen to cast Knightley, 25, as Diana along with “The Queen” actor Helen Mirren, 65, as her mother and have started work on the project.

The film is expected to release in 2011 on Princess Diana’s supposed 50th birthday; the year also marks 30 years of Diana’s wedding to Prince Charles. It is also reported to

be the year when Prince William finally marries his long-term girlfriend, Kate Middleton.

“The project is in the early stages but Pathe has chosen 2011 quite deliberately,” the Daily Mail quoted a source as saying.

“It will be in the same vein as their movie ‘The Queen’ and will detail the ups and downs of Diana’s marriage and the early lives of the Princess,” the source added.

Source: Internet

## Sir Elton John calls modern songwriters “pretty awful”

Sir Elton John has described today’s songwriters as “pretty awful” and says he is “not a fan” of TV talent shows.

The singer told the Radio Times he refused to be a judge on “American Idol” because I won’t slag anyone off” and also found TV boring.

He also defended his decision to perform at the wedding of right-wing US talk show host Rush Limbaugh, who has been accused of homophobia.

“I’m a builder of bridges and knocker-down of walls,” the 63-year-old said.

The singer, who entered into a civil partnership with long-term partner David Furnish in 2005, will reportedly receive one million dollars (£629,000) for the appearance.

But he said: “I was incensed when people said I was throwing away 40 years of credibility for money. No. I don’t need it.”

“No one was more surprised than I when Rush asked. Politically we’re opposites. It was an opportunity to break the ice.”

Sir Elton told the Radio Times: “I’m not a fan of talent shows. I probably wouldn’t have lasted

if I’d gone on one.

“Also I don’t want to be on television. It’s become boring, paralytically brain crippling. I like Simon Cowell [creator of ‘X Factor’], but what he does is TV entertainment.

“TV vaults you to superstardom and then you have to back it up, which is hard. [‘X Factor’ winners] Leona Lewis and Alexandra Burke are at the mercy of the next song they can get.”

He said “Britain’s Got Talent” star Susan Boyle was “an endearing phenomenon,” but “might not understand the rigours of showbusiness.”

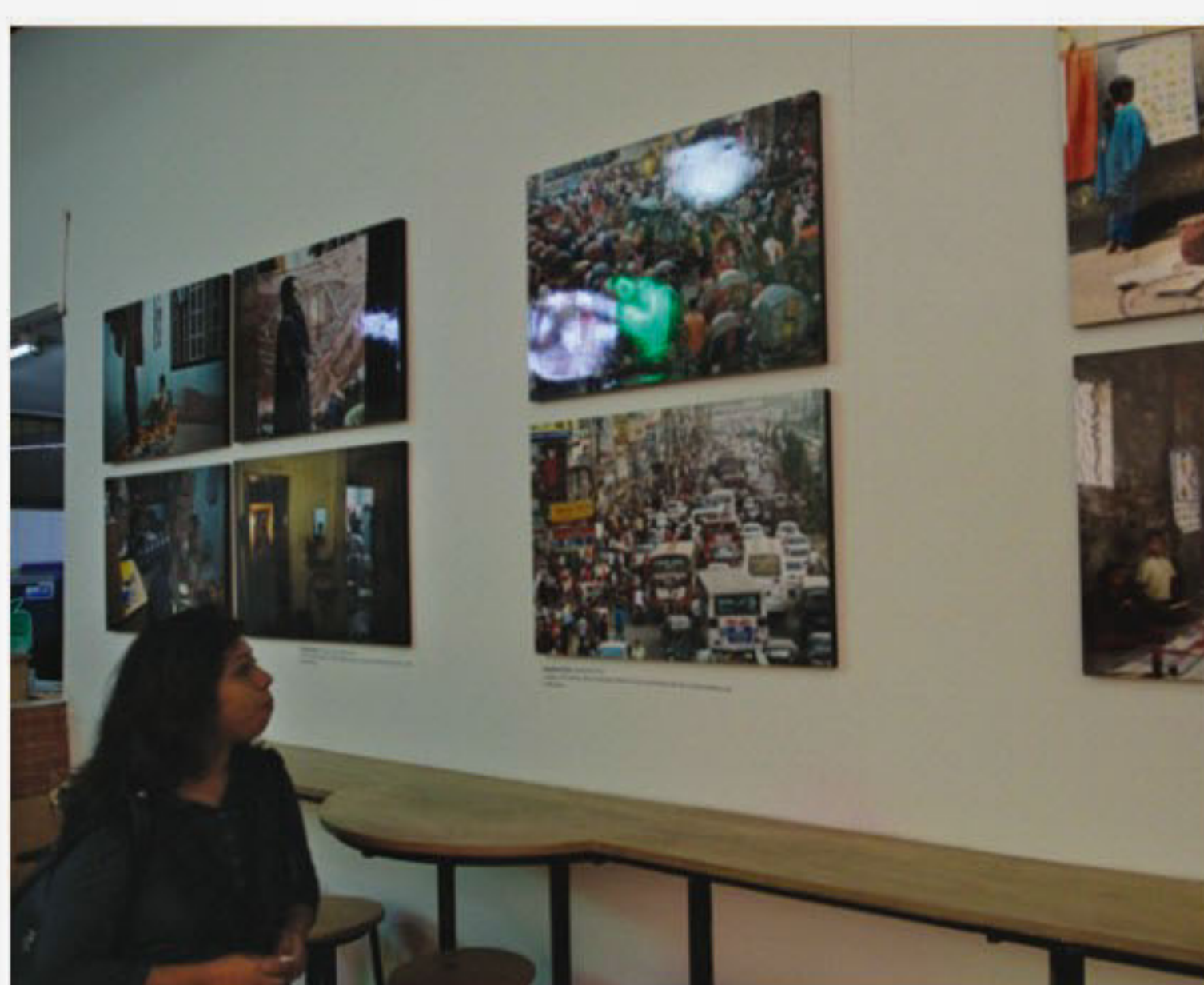
Sir Elton also said he admired stars such as Lily Allen, Amy Winehouse and Lady Gaga, but added: “It’s important they write their own songs, so they’re not at the mercy of anyone.”

“Songwriters today are pretty awful, which is why everything sounds the same. Contemporary pop isn’t very inspiring.”

Source: BBC



Interactive painting drew art enthusiasts at the event.



A visitor browses the photo exhibition at the Goethe Institut, Dhaka.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL



## Nepalese troupe ‘Kalamandapa’ in town

Shadhona -- a centre for advancement of South Asian Music and Dance -- invited a seven-member team of Nepalese dancers and singers who perform ‘Charya Nritya’, the Vajrayana Buddhist Tantric dance based on the “Charyapada”, Buddhist texts, which are considered the earliest instance of Bangla as a written language. The Nepalese troupe, ‘Kalamandapa’, is now in Dhaka, according to a press release.

The troupe conducted a workshop on Charya Nritya (starting from October 15) at Rehearsal Room of the National Auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

The team also conducted a Vajrayana Ritual at the Dharmarajika Buddhist Temple, in Kamalapur, Dhaka yesterday morning. Today, at 3 pm, there will be a seminar on Charya Nritya at Bangla Academy. The seminar has been jointly organised by Shadhona and Bangla Academy and is open to all.



Elton John