

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Solo Sarod Recital

Artist: Shahadat Hossain Khan  
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1  
Date: November 13  
Time: 7pm



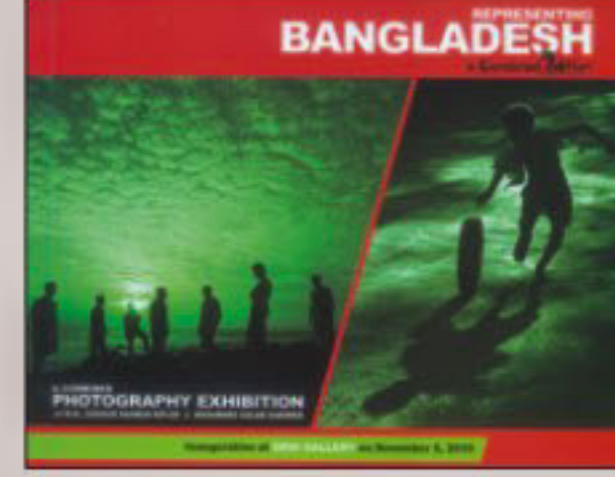
### Duet Art Exhibition

Artists: Tajuddin Ahmed and Syed Iqbal  
Venue: Tivoli Art Gallery, DCC Market, Gulshan-2  
Date: November 5-15  
Time: 10am-8pm



### Photography Exhibition

Title: Representing Bangladesh  
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi  
Date: November 5-11  
Time: 308pm



### Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Khurshid Alam Saleem  
Venue: Shilpangan Art Gallery, H-26, R-3/A, Dhanmondi  
Date: October 31-November 10  
Time: 10am-8pm



## Readers' Corner

# Beethoven and I

SWANI ZUBAYEER

October 2004. Vienna Central Graveyard. It is huge. I am standing outside the main entrance. My heart is beating fast, so fast that I thought it might explode in my chest any moment. It took some time to pull myself together. In a faint voice I asked the guard, "How far do I have to walk till I reach Beethoven?" "Around fifty metres sir," he said. To walk those fifty metres it took me half an hour. Numb, so numb my feet were!

As I was getting closer, all his compositions, especially The 2nd, 5th, 6th, and 9th symphony, Sonata Pathetique, Moonlight Sonata, E flat Major concerto for Piano, String Quartet in C sharp minor... all of these were playing randomly in my head. Something like this happens only in our dreams, more like a collage of dreams. His streams of music were crisscrossing my existence in a way that my vision got blurry. I could hardly see what was around me. I had to sit.

From a distance I could see the Maestro's Monument. It was still ten metres away. I stood up, resumed walking. I looked around. It was as if I was surrounded by millions of spirits, all with various instruments in their hands. As if it were another world where the Maestro is standing tall before the largest orchestra and conducting all his music, and they are playing whatever he wants with great joy, and I am the sole lucky listener -- flowers in hand, tears in eyes.

I thought those teardrops had carried all the possible feelings a human being can have. I also thought they purified my soul. Finally, I was there with the flowers.



**As if it were another world where the Maestro is standing tall before the largest orchestra and conducting all his music, and they are playing whatever he wants with great joy, and I am the sole lucky listener -- flowers in hand, tears in eyes.**

But my flowers seemed inadequate and meaningless as I could feel the vibration of his charisma even though he was beneath the sod, for nearly 200 years. I stood there speechless for ten minutes, looking at his grave, thinking what if I was born in his time? I would have definitely somehow managed to become his pupil. I was in such a state of mind that all the impossibilities seemed possible to me.

We know Beethoven had no significant pupil, not even his own nephew Carl. A man named Schindler went to him to become his pupil but ended up becoming his secretary till the Maestro's last day on earth. Possibly, Schindler is the only person whose love for Beethoven was unconditional, because no one else could cope with the Maestro's fiery temper. Once a violinist came to Beethoven and said, "Maestro this part is very difficult, I cannot play it." Beethoven, apparently with great anger answered, (as usual), "What do I care about your poor violin?"

But whoever has read the letter (<http://home.swipnet.se/zabonk/cultur/ludwig/beeheil.htm>) written to his younger brother will have a completely different impression of him. My tour to Vienna is one my most cherished memories. During that tour I visited all the museums of Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert. Beethoven lived in 82 different houses in Vienna, of which, five are preserved as museums. For music lovers sparing some time at those museums would be like a ritual completed.

Swani Zubayeer received his Masters in English literature from Dhaka University, after which he went on to Sweden to study music and was the student of Gotlands School of Music Composition.



## Hassles of Fame: Kumar Bishwajit

A CORRESPONDENT

I don't know if I should call it hassles of fame or smothering admiration that comes with fame. Although some can be considered as "hassles", I usually love what my fans express towards me.

Back in 1994, my father passed away. I was on my way to Sitakundo with the corpse and had to cross a river on a ferry. But as soon as we boarded the ferry, people began to throng around me -- asking for autographs or to have photos taken. I tried to explain to everyone that my father had just passed away. But no one listened. I had to comply with their wishes. I consider that incident a hassle of fame.

This other time, I went to Dallas (US) with my wife to perform at a show. There a Bangladeshi young man approached me. He hugged me and started weeping. My wife asked if I knew him. I replied that he was a fan. That young man wept for quite a while, saying, my

songs take away his pain. Things like this have occurred at many places.

Once I was going to a concert, probably in Barisal. On the way, people gathered around my car on a ferry. An old beggar started banging on the window. I was annoyed, as I didn't want to roll down the car window. But after constant banging, I gave up and opened the window to give the beggar some money. He declined, saying he just wanted to get a glimpse of me. The beggar added that he loves my song "Jare Ghor Dila, Shongshar Dila Na". His words brought tears to my eyes. I then insisted and gave the old man a hundred taka. He in return, gave me his blessings.

There are many more incidents like these. Giving autographs or having pictures taken with fans is almost mandatory even when I don't feel like it. Rather than calling these "hassles of fame," I look at them as manifestations of adoration. It is reasonable for fans to make expectations, though there should be a time and place for everything.

## Robert De Niro to receive lifetime Golden Globe award



De Niro won a Golden Globe for "Raging Bull" in 1980.

Oscar-winning actor Robert De Niro is to receive the Cecil B DeMille Award for lifetime achievement at the Golden Globes next year.

The "Taxi Driver" and "Raging Bull" star, 67, will collect the prize at the 2011 awards, to be held on January 16.

Making the announcement, actor Kevin Spacey described De Niro as being "universally acknowledged as one of the greatest actors of

all time".

Previous recipients include Al Pacino, Martin Scorsese and Steven Spielberg.

Spacey hailed De Niro -- who has made more than 70 films -- for creating "some of cinema's most unforgettable moments".

"He has set the bar for every actor," the "American Beauty" star continued, saying the Godfather actor was "unafraid to transform himself, both inside and out."

De Niro is also being honoured for his contributions as a director, as a producer through his Tribeca Productions, and as a co-founder of the Tribeca Film Festival in New York.

Chosen by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, the Cecil B DeMille Award is given annually to the "talented individuals who have made an incredible impact on the world of entertainment".

The Los Angeles ceremony, to be broadcast live across the US, will be hosted by comedian Ricky Gervais.

The Office and Extras creator made his debut as presenter earlier this year.

Source: BBC

## The philosophical painter

Srijon Chowdhury's solo exhibition



The art works reveal beauty in simplicity.

RABIUL HUSAIN

Srijon Chowdhury's first solo exhibition, titled Nepotism, was held at "The Gallery" at Gulshan. On display were 24 oil paintings.

With a BFA degree from the University of Minnesota, USA, in 2009 Srijon travelled through China, Cambodia and Thailand with a view to learning painting extensively. Srijon tries to express his ideas, moods, theories, topics and styles in realistic and abstract compositions with a touch of mystic as well as surrealist presentations using a lot of vibrant and deep colours.

In the 'Girl', 'Boy' or 'Aging' series, Srijon presents the portraits of men or women in pensive mood.

Those are not only mere

portraits but much more than what is revealed. So we can easily say he does not paint what he sees but paints what he thinks or dreams.

In 'Sirens' we can see three boys crying or shouting, while someone's leg is visible in the canvas. It could be the leg of a dead man lying on the ground and the children are trying to draw everybody's attention, but there is no response.

In this way, Srijon recounts stories through his paintings. Sometimes they are as simple as a soap in a soap-tray, a bell hanging from a beam or two hands playing with red string geometrically in 'Hands-all'. They reveal beauty in a kind of simplicity.

He likes to see things from every corner, inside out and outside in. In

the 'Couch' a man occupies the whole space spreading his hands and legs outright. This is very normal but in contrast we can see some black hands emerging from the holes of two walls. This helps to create a drama of horror. The artist paints beyond what he likes to paint and puts a question as well as answer in a situation of mysticism and esoteric revelations. This is a starting point to understand that the philosophy of human life exists in mother Nature.

Srijon believes art is nothing but a special kind of humanised science as well as a natural philosophy.

Srijon's 'Cow', 'Tea plucker', 'Father and son', 'Whisper', 'Scream' all these works have the qualities of realistic creations with a view behind except some

like 'Expansions' using impasto technique i.e. heavy layers of colours in the style of abstract expressionism proves his eagerness and restlessness in creating something worthwhile. With more experience, Srijon's drawings and colour layers like water colour will be more definite and true to the subject.

With Srijon's debut art exposition, the revamped La Galerie promises to introduce a new platform for upcoming and seasoned artists. Credit goes to Srijon's father, freedom fighter Akku Chowdhury and Engr. N.H. Bhuiyan.

The exhibition is on till November 20.

Rabiul Husain is an eminent architect and poet.



## Boat race makes a come back

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Ten to 15 years ago the people beside the Hurasagar and Jamuna river of Bera upazila under Pabna district used to arrange boat races every year. But the traditional sport had gradu-

ally fizzled out over the last decade. After a 10-year hiatus the race was back when the people of the Bera upazila under Pabna district organised the traditional boat race in Hurasagar river. The month long traditional race concluded on October 22.