

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Photography Exhibition

Title: Nature  
Photographer: Shamsunnahar Lovely  
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts, Shahbagh  
Date: December 17-23  
Time: 10am-8pm



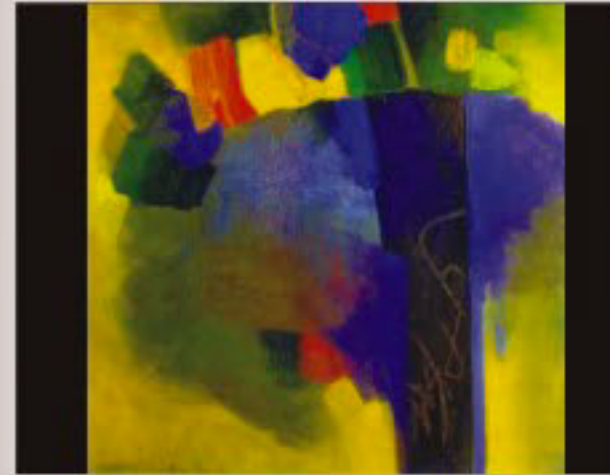
### Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Swapan Chowdhury  
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7 A, H-60, Dhanmondi  
Date: December 15-31  
Time: 11am-8pm



### Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Hashem Khan  
Venue: Nalinikanta Bhattoshali Gallery, National Museum  
Date: December 18-January 2  
Time: 12pm-8pm



### Theatre

Play: Tringsha Shatabdi  
Troupe: Swapnadal  
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: December 25  
Time: 6:30pm



# Bird's Eye View

## Aerial photography exhibition at the Parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US Bangladesh Foundation and Texeurop have jointly organised a photography exhibition featuring Yann Arthus-Bertrand, a French aerial photographer, filmmaker and environmentalist. The exhibition is supported by the French Embassy in Dhaka.

Bertrand was born in 1946 in Paris. His interests include nature and wildlife. He started to record his observations through the camera. In 1991 Bertrand became a photojournalist and founded Altitude, the leading aerial photography agency in the world. Inspired by the link connecting humankind, wildlife and nature, he joined with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and has produced documentary-style photography series like "The Earth From Above", "Wild Animals", "Horses", and "365 Days".

As a photographer, Bertrand employs the power of images to convey universal emotions, understanding and appreciation for our planet and its residents.

To generate awareness on environmentalism among Bangladeshis,



The photographs reflect the variety of natural habitats and expressions of life, and also the human imprint and assault on the earth.

a two-month long roving exhibition titled "Earth from Above", featuring around 100 aerial photographs, is on at the South Plaza of the National Parliament in Dhaka. The exhibition

opened on December 19 and will continue till February 19, 2011.

State Minister for Environment and Forests, Hasan Mahmud, inaugurated the exhibition as

chief guest, while French Embassy Charge d'affaires Patrick Branco and Bertrand, among others, spoke at the inaugural session. The opening programme was

presided over by Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique.

Patrick Branco said, "This event is being held in the aftermath of the Cancun Conference and it gives me the opportunity to inform you all that France will mobilise 1.26 billion euros out of the 7.2 billion, provided by the European Union and the EU member states. As one of the countries more vulnerable to the effects of global warming, Bangladesh will be given priority to have access to this short-term fund."

The open-air exhibition features several themes related to environment. The exhibit has travelled 152 major cities across the globe. The photographs reflect the variety of natural habitats and expressions of life, and also the human imprint and assault on the earth.

Most of Bertrand's photographs show greenery, cornfield, riverine life, mountains, ethnic life, cattle, wild animals, dead forest, deep blue water and more.

After the inaugural programme, the organisers screened Yann Arthus-Bertrand's documentary film "Home" at the National Parliament premises. The film is almost entirely composed of aerial shots of various places on the planet.



## Shekhar Kapur's "Paani" to finally take off

Director Shekhar Kapur -- globally acclaimed for the Academy Award-winning period film "Elizabeth" and its sequel "Elizabeth: The Golden Age" -- is all set to revive his ambitious project "Paani" in March 2011. The film will highlight the world's fast changing climate, and its adverse effects.

Kapur, who was in New Delhi recently, refused to divulge details of the cast.

"I am worried about the depleting resources of drinking water worldwide and hence thought of launching this ambitious project," Kapur said. "I have set a deadline to begin shooting either in February or March."

Kapur claims that the film will not be a sci-fi thriller, as is widely thought. "I would call it a futuristic movie that narrates the tale of world without water," he says. "It deals with a serious subject and will paint a picture of the possible future. So any location would be ideal, be it Mumbai, Singapore or Thailand. A love story is also weaved into it."

The director, who gave us the brilliant "Masoom" many years ago, has no plans of working in a Bollywood film right now.

"I am working on a script on (English mountaineer) George Mallory, whose body was found a few hundred metres from the top of Mount Everest," he adds. "Did he climb Mount Everest before Sir Edmund Hillary? Mallory was attempting to climb Mount Everest way back in June 1924. His body gives rise to speculation. Nobody can say for sure whether he died on the way to the peak or if it happened on his way down."

Kapur added that he remembered his promise that an Indian actor would soon play the role of Spider-Man. "Yes, it will happen. I guess we will have a Spider-Man from India when I shoot Spider-Man 7," he grinned.

Source: Internet



## A gifted folk singer recalled

### Fifth death anniversary of Hajera Bibi observed

REZAUL KARIM, Faridpur

A vibrant cultural programme and discussion were held last Tuesday afternoon in Faridpur on the occasion of the 5th death anniversary of accomplished local folk singer Hajera Bibi. Faridpur Sahitya Parishad (FSP) arranged the programme at its own premises on Mujib Sharak in the town.

The cultural programme included renditions of Lalon songs, Jari Gaan, local Geet, poetry recitation and discussion.

The discussants said that Hajera Bibi was a well-known and regular artiste of Bangladesh Television and Betar. She had close ties with 'Polli Kobi' Jasimuddin, and her numerous songs articulate the uncomplicated rural life, they added. However, her work and life remain unknown to the rest of the country,

and the government should take steps to collect her songs from her disciples, they asserted.

Among others, S.M. Nurunnabi, central member of AL advisory committee; Professor Altaf Hossain; Mafiz Imam Milon, secretary of FSP; Abdul Bari Chowdhury, chairman of Ambikapur union and Advocate Pradip Kumar Das, secretary of Hajera Bibi Foundation, spoke on the occasion. Professor M.A. Samad chaired the discussion.

Sadek Ali, Bijoy Roy, Sushil Kumar, Ayub Boyati, Alep Boyati, Moktar Dewan and Abdur Rahman rendered songs at the cultural programme. Shamim Ara Begum, Anwar Karim, Mamunur Rahman and Rukhsana Habib recited poetry.

A sizeable audience and several fans of Hajera Bibi were spotted at the programme.



PHOTO: STAR

At the discussion, speakers went over the life and achievements of the artiste.

## Inspired by Tagore

### Art exhibition by Bhaskar Singha



A painting by Bhaskar Singha.

KAVITA, New Delhi

Delhi-based artist Bhaskar Singha was fascinated by Rabindranath Tagore's poetry and short stories right from his childhood days. With passing years, he became a great admirer of Rabindra Sangeet and the Nobel laureate's dance dramas too.

At his art exhibition, "Tagore..." Singha has used acrylic on canvas to pay tribute to the literary genius. Singha's 36 paintings are reflective of Tagore's deep influence on his artistic works. The exhibition is also a celebration of Tagore's 150th birth anniversary.

"I am privileged to pay tribute towards this supreme soul," says Singha. "I needed to express my gratitude to him for being my inspiration,

my leading edge in devising these canvasses... With my minimum possible skill and ability, I have tried hard to jot down some of his transcendental influence into colourful canvases which talk implicitly about his splendid power, be it his work, life, self or personality."

Tagore's famous nationalistic poem, "Jodi tor daak shune keu ne ashe tobe akla cholo re" (If they answer not to thy call, walk alone) propels Singha to artistic expression through a fusion of realistic figures set against a vivid collage of shapes that convey a distinctive meaning. According to the artist, a figure in a deep meditation pose in one corner of the canvas derives the strength to chart a lonely course, as revealed by another figure at the opposite end of the work.

In "Rajpath", based on an eponymous short story by Tagore, the viewer sees a relentless sun beating down on a long stretch of road. This conjures up visions of how people negotiating a wide road seem to have lost their bearings. While happy and sad incidents keep occurring on the path, the road remains a mute witness to the vagaries of human beings.

Acrylic remains Singha's preferred medium, because as he says, "It dries quickly and has become a habit with me." More explicitly he says that the transparent layer in acrylic is difficult to get because it dries very fast. But with practice, he asserts, the results can be superb.

Singha has travelled extensively in India to display his works. A graduate in Fine Arts from Rabindra Bharti

University, he talks of his last exhibition, titled 'Film on Canvas' that featured Satyajit Ray. Now he has set his sights on an art exhibition based on cinema, tentatively titled 'World of Cinema', which will feature celluloid greats such as Richard Attenborough, Shyam Benegal and Charlie Chaplin. While this ambitious project could be two or three years in the making, he refuses to divulge any details.

Singha, as prizewinner of two prestigious awards in India, has impeccable credentials as an artist. However, he laments the fact that he has received little support from the Indian cultural establishment, which prefers to go for bigger names. Even the present exhibition, he says was an entirely solo effort -- in more ways than one.