

WHAT'S ON

Aerial Photography Photographer: Yann Arthus-Bertrand Venue: National Parliament Date: Dec 19-Feb 19

Solo Art Exhibition Artist: Hashem Khan Venue: Nalinikanta Bhattacharya Gallery, National Museum Date: Dec 18-Jan 2 Time: 12pm-8pm

Bulbul Chowdhury Mela 2011 Venues: BSA Premises, Dhaka, Manikganj and Chittagong Date: Jan 1-7

Solo Tapestry Exhibition Artist: Tajul Islam Venue: Shipangan Gallery, H-26, R-3, Dhanmondi Date: Jan 3-14 Time: 12pm-8pm

Paintings of the Past Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka Date: January 6-17 Time: 3-9pm (Mon-Thurs) 9am-12pm & 5-8pm (Fri & Sat)

Theatre Play: Eel Vekaste Troupe: Ananyak Natyadali Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shikpala Academy Date: January 2; Time: 6:15

Group Art Exhibition Venue: Dhaka Art Centre Date: January 1-15 Time: 11am-6pm

Rooted Creativity 7 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H-275/F, Rd-16 (New), Dhanmondi Date: Dec 31-Jan 9 Time: 12-8pm



Colours of 2011 Artists have their say



Murtaja Baseer

also thinking about some refreshing themes. I will be working on those themes in 2011," said Baseer.

The maestro wants to focus on figurative works behind which he has an interesting background.

After a hiatus of 25 years, he started figurative paintings in 1993.

He continued figurative works and later shifted to other modes of expression. He hopes return to this genre in 2011.

Ranjit Das Ranjit Das is a thought provoking painter whose works delve deep into varied social, cultural, urban and rural issues.

The painter said, "This is the last week in 2010. Last year at the same time I had tried to visualise what was likely to happen in the next year. As a painter and an citizen of the country, I painted on a canvas in my mind a picture of our life and time in the country. I always pray and hope for my country," said Das.

However, this year, the painter's solo exhibition was held at Galleri Kaya. He has also participated in a number of group exhibitions in the country and abroad. In 2011, the painter wants to concentrate on social issues.



Mohammad Iqbal

Mohammad Iqbal is a noted painter. Mingling eastern and western techniques and motifs, his two solo exhibitions were held in Japan and one solo exhibition was held in Dhaka in 2010. This year, he has also participated in a number of group exhibitions at home and abroad.

Recently the painter returned after a long time stay in Japan. "I have joined as senior teacher at Drawing and Painting Department, the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka. I will mostly be focusing on my own art works, teaching at my department in the coming years.

"My best wish for the students is that they should concentrate more on their studies and try to create something which would reflect our country's culture and tradition.



Mohammad Iqbal

"I strongly feel that the government should give priority to primary education. Our primary education system is very poor and suffers from lack of modern techniques and resources," said the talented artist.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star spoke to three leading artists about the colours of 2010 and what they have on their palettes for the New Year.

Murtaja Baseer Veteran Murtaja Baseer is recognised for working on varied themes. In 2010, his solo painting exhibition titled "Wings" was held at Galleri Kaya. "Wings" is one of his significant series of works, which he started in July 1998.

"After a three year break, I started painting in the year and could complete the exhibition without any hitch. This year, I am



Ranjit Das



Galloping time



Horse race regains its glory

PHOTO: STAR

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

Horse racing is regaining its popularity in rural areas in Panchagarh district. Several organisers under different banners have been arranging the traditional competition at different locations for the last three years.

Locals say that several more horse races will be held in other villages of the district in the current winter season.

Assistant Professor of History of Boda Women's College told this correspondent that eight years ago some youths of Shaldanga village under Debigonj upazila organised a horse race under the banner of Hathath Committee at the village on December 18 to mark Victory Day.

Thakurgaon, Dinajpur and Nilphamary districts participate in the competition and the race is held at different places of the district.

When contacted, president of the Hathath Committee, Kamruzzaman Jewel told The Daily Star that the old village tradition of horse racing is on the verge of extinction. "To revive the sport, we organised the event. Many youths are seen practicing horse riding in different villages of Panchagarh district round the year, which is a big source of satisfaction for me," he said.

Abdullah Hel Kafi, a horse rider from Nilphamary district, told The Daily Star that he had become a well known figure to thousands of people in Panchagarh district as he had been participating in the horse race for several years.

A successful horse races was held recently at the adjoining field of Boda Palli Biddu

Office under Boda Upazila. Divisional Commissioner Md. Jasimuddin attended the event as chief guest and seven Deputy Commissioners of different districts under Rangpur Division were special guests.

The competition had 20 participants from Thakurgaon, Panchagarh and Nilphamary districts. Of the participants nine were selected for the final round.

In the final competition Abdullah-hel-Kafi of Domer village under Domer upazila in Nilphamary won the first prize, the second prize was wrested by Mohammad Ainal, a student of class VII of Panchpur village under Boda upazila in Panchagarh and the winner of the third prize was Tulu of Debigonj upazila headquarter.

The winners were given a colour television and bicycle and each participant was also given prizes.

Songs from the soul

Baul Mela begins

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

Mother Foundation, a local organisation, has been holding a five day (January 1-5) Baul Samabesh at the Manikganj Government High School playgrounds. The organisation will award gold medals and certificates posthumously to 10 popular spiritual singers and crests and certificates to 20 popular Baul singers of the country.

Popular Baul singers --Momtaz Begum, Saidur Rahman Boyati, Khoimuddin Boyati, Aynal Haque Dewan, will be among five hundred

singers taking part at the festival. Information Secretary Hedayetullah Al Mamun inaugurated the five day long Baul fair on January 1, while Afroza Romzan, president of Mother Foundation, presided over the inaugural function.

AKM Mozammel Haque MP, chairman of Land Affairs Parliamentary Standing Committee, will attend the second day as chief guest while AKM Shamim Chowdhury, Director General of Bangladesh Betar, will attend as special guest.

Momtaz Begum, popular singer and lawyer, will attend the third day as

chief guest while Alhaj Jahid Maleque Swapan, local lawmaker, will attend the fourth day and Dr. Shawkat Momen Shahjahan MP chairman of Agriculture Affairs Parliamentary Standing Committee, will attend the concluding day as chief guest.

The organisation will also accord a reception, and hand out a crest, certificates and cash to the best 35 talent pool stipend achievers at primary level, 35 best junior talent pool achievers and all golden GPA-5 achievers in SSC examination of the district.

The Daily Star and Channel i are the media partners of the event.

Boney M Singer Bobby Farrell Dead



Bobby Farrell

Bobby Farrell, the energetic frontman of the 1970s disco band Boney M, died last Thursday (December 30) in his hotel room in St. Petersburg, Russia, at the age of 61.

Reuters reported that Farrell was found dead in his room the day after a show in the city where the band achieved some of its career highlights during the Soviet era.

"He did a show last night as part of Bobby Farrell's Boney M and they found him this morning dead in his

hotel room," agent John Seine told Reuters. "He did not feel well last night and was having problems with his breathing, but he did the show anyway." The cause of death was not immediately released.

The group, which formed in West Germany in the late 1970s, was put together by German record producer Frank Farian, best known for assembling the musicians who sang the vocals for sham 1990s pop duo Milli Vanilli. Farian, who made a career out

of ghostwriting songs, was unable to make it as a singer, but when his tune "Baby Do You Wanna Bump" became a hit in 1976 under the stage name Boney M, he hired Farrell to act as the lead "singer" of the group.

Though former dancer Farrell and fellow Boney M members Marcia Barrett and Liz Mitchell sang live during concerts, Farrell's vocals were largely absent from their biggest hits, including "Daddy Cool," "Sunny," "Ma Baker," "Rivers of Babylon" and "Rasputin." The group was well-received and scored a string of hits in Europe, Russia and Asia, but never really crossed over to the United States. They sold 80 million albums in their heyday and 1978's "Rivers of Babylon"/"Brown Girl in the Ring" is still the fifth-best-selling British single of all time.

By the time the group's fifth studio album, "Boonoonoonos", was released in 1981, Farrell, known as the "King of Disco," had been kicked out and replaced by another singer. Farrell (born Alfonso Farrell in Aruba on October 6, 1949) was slated to perform on New Year's Eve in Italy.

Source: MTV

FOLK FESTIVAL

Swinging to the rhythm

A. M. JAHID

People from all walks of life in Rajshahi city swung to the rhythm of folk songs on third and fourth day of the Folk Festival, organised by Rajshahi Theatre. The five-day festival marked the end of its yearlong silver jubilee celebrations at Kumarpara Mukta Mancha in the city.

On Thursday night, a large ensemble of folk artistes enthralled the huge audience with their performance of popular folk music, including Jari, Sari, pala gaan and Lalon songs.

The programme began with a discussion on 'Folk Music: Present and Past' where speakers highlighted the past glory of folk music and the present scenario.

Stressing the need to revive local performing art forms, they said that these arts are likely to become extinct due to lack of proper patronage and the influx of foreign culture.

The session of 'Folk Music' started with a song dedicating to Hazrat Shah Makhdoom

Artistes of GB fashion, a local fashion house, performed a short drama and staged dances to the solemn beat of patriotic songs.

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Despite poverty, team spirit bonds the artistes, for folk music underpins their soul.

PHOTO: STAR

(RA) by the artistes of Nrebanee Music School of the city.

Sathi Akhtar, an artiste of the school, performed two local traditional songs.

The artistes of Jhankar Nritya Gosti then danced with traditional songs. The performance of a four-year old was greeted with many rounds of applause.

The last attraction of the day was "Alkab" a popular sub-genre of folk music of Rajshahi region performed by Altab Rongorosh Theatre that made the audience swing till midnight, regardless of the bitterly cold night.

The five-day Folk Festival ended on Friday night in the presence of Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, MP Fazle Hossain Badsha of Rajshahi-2 constituency and other eminent persons.

The countdown begins

A CORRESPONDENT

We enter the New Year with many interesting news snippets for our readers. To start with we begin a series of interviews with leading artists about their aspirations for 2011. We turn the spotlight on Bindu and Monalisa. Here's what they had to say:

Bindu :: First of all I want to wish all my fans and well wishers a happy new year.

There is no end to my expectations this year. I deeply hope that the year brings only good for the country and its people. Without mulling over what we lost, we have to move forward, contemplating on how we can achieve more. As for my profession, I wish to do works that will find a place in viewers' hearts.

Many popular TV plays came my way in 2010, and I hope that the new year will be the same. I also hope that my upcoming film "Ei Toh Prem", where I star opposite Shakib Khan, will be a turning point in my career this year.

Monalisa :: My biggest wish is to see Dhaka free from traffic congestion. I also

hope everyone will always wear a smile on their faces, with no helpless people lying on the side walks. Although I have little ability, I wish to stand beside those who are in need. I hope my work in the media will continue this year. There are chances that I might also tie the wedding knot in 2011. Overall I want to spend a

happy and peaceful year with my family.



Table with TV channels and programmes: AIN Bangla, Channel i, ntv, ETV.

Table with Radio stations and programmes: abc Radio, 09:00am, 12:30pm, etc.

Advertisement for Ghotok Bhai, X-Men Origins: Wolverine, Amar Ami, and other shows.

Table with TV channels and programmes: Banglavisión, Rtv, Desh TV, Diganta TV, Z Studio.

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