

WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Monirul Islam
Venue: Gallery Chitrah, Dhanmondi
Date: May 27-June 15
Time: 10am-9pm

Circus Show
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Shilpakala Academy open premises
Date: June 1-8
Time: 7pm everyday

Theatre Festival
Organiser: Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation
Venue: Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 3-17
Time: 7pm everyday

19th National Art Exhibition
Organiser: Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 28-June 17

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Essence of Mystery
Artist: Tarak Mahadi
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi
Date: June 3-16

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Mustapha Khalid Falah
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7 A JI-60, Dhanmondi
Date: June 17-July 1
Time: 11am-9pm

Solo Photography Exhibition
Title: In Search 2
Photographer: Nayazuzman Prince
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi
Date: June 3-14; Time: 12-9pm

Ceramic Art Exhibition
Organiser: Itarappa
Venue: DDK Gallery, Dhanmondi
Date: May 28-June 4
Time: 3pm-9pm

THEATRE

Baikunther Khata
A Comedy Addressing Sycophancy



A scene from the play. PHOTO: GOLAM MAHBUB

Loko Natyadal (Banani) brings Rabindranath Tagore's 'Baikunther Khata' to the stage as a tribute to the poet on the occasion of his 150th birth anniversary this year. The premiere of the play was held on June 2 at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The troupe has received a grant from the Ministry of Cultural Affairs to produce the play. 'Baikunther Khata' has been directed by Kamrun Nur Chowdhury. The play narrates a comic story involving a manuscript owned by Baikuntha. Kedar, a shrewd sycophant, tries to flatter Baikuntha to earn some quick bucks. Kedar also wants to marry off his sister-in-law to Baikuntha's younger brother Abinash. Tinkari, Kedar's assistant, is comparatively uncomplicated and honest. Both Kedar and Tinkari butter up Baikuntha in various ways that gradually creates misunderstanding between Baikuntha and his family. Through the comedy, Tagore wanted to address rampant sycophancy in the society. The director of the play has also focused on this aspect. Zahidur Rahman played the role of Baikuntha. Khairul Alam and Basudeb Halder donned the roles of Kedar and Tinkari respectively. The cast also included Abdullah Al Harun, Anwar Kaiser, Minhajul Huda and Tauhidul Islam. Zahidur Rahman also designed the set. GM Sirajul Hossain was in charge of light designing. The troupe is also working on another Tagore story 'Bashikaron' currently. The play will premiere on June 6 at the same venue during the theatre festival organised by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation. The Cultural Ministry is supporting 15 troupes with such grants to bring Tagore's literary works to the stage.

ALBUM REVIEW

'Republic': A Concoction of Metal and Rock



TOWHIDUL ISLAM KHAN
'Republic' -- a mixed album that came out recently -- shouts out that metal is still alive in the country. Although listeners will get the good, bad and the ugly from this album, it's worth buying as some of the tracks will surely be stuck on playlists. Chromatic Massacre sets the tone of the album with a morbid monologue in the beginning. Kudos to the band for a unique intro to the song 'Riot of Blood'. Most death metal/ thrash metal fans will get enough headbanging elements to keep them occupied throughout the song. Groovetrap makes a smooth transition from metal to rock through the next track 'Limelight'. Rock roots of the band are readily audible in the track. The vocalist -- Simin -- delivers a flawless soothing performance with well thought out guitar work. 'Sesh Shimana' by Scarecrow is rather disappointing. Poor mixing and a very ordinary composition failed to meet the expected results from a seasoned band like Scarecrow. The guitar effects sound like they were done with prehistoric processors. The only glimpse of their prowess is found in a classy guitar solo, in the middle of the song. Crematic-X -- a fast rising band -- raised the bar again with 'Tomaye Bhebe'. Although the slow ballad feels out-of-place in an album dominated by metal numbers, brilliant vocal harmonies, work with the keys and simplicity of the tune deserve applause. A sudden jump to death metal again. Enter Satanik with 'Azrael'. Constant shifts in the guitar scales is confusing -- but in a good sense, and it should make the listener want to give the song another go to understand the sounds. The drums sound like they were programmed, but the guitar runs were top notch. Owned -- very energetic at their live performances -- went with a safe number for 'Republic'. All the instruments and the vocals tried desperately to inspire dark emotions through 'Niroporadh', but the attempt collapses at various stages of the song. Owned needs to be more daring to stand out in the crowd and display their potentials. Cadaver's 'Porittakto' sounds like an amateurish experiment. The band doesn't offer anything fresh or novel in the song. The output is a haphazard gluing of different sounds, which if taken apart would have sounded better. 'Menes' by Ostitto is successful in producing tunes that establish the individual sound of the band. The Arabic scale intro, followed by a brutal picking of the guitar and ruthless drumming, produced a brilliant track. Thumbs up! Thrash metal intensifies in Strident's 'Until It Bleeds'. The vocals are mighty powerful, the riffs are strong, and the leads are melodious -- perfect ingredients for a melodic death metal number. One of the most mature compositions in the entire album. From a peak, the album again slips into mediocrity with the NII track 'Brishti Snato'. The chorus sounds like it was borrowed from somewhere else. A complete misfit after two amp-

tumping songs. The song might have received a warmer response if it was featured on an alternative rock album. Jahiliyyah's 'Ave Misanthropy' is LOUD from the very beginning. The band knew its intent and was able to execute it to the mark. The drumming in the mid section however misplaced a few beats here and there. Apart from that this song deserves a spot on the headbang addict's playlist. 'Bikrito Rupantor' by Necromaniac is similar to cadaver's attempt of attaching different bits but only better. More focus on the vocals definitely paid off. Clever arrangement of instruments along with a good mixing produced positive results. The bassist deserves mention. Story Teller's 'Akrosh' sounds less full of rage than its previous tracks. Poor mixing again -- this time with the vocals, making the words almost inaudible. The song itself is good but not something that would be played on a loop. Karnival's 'Bikrito Drishti' delivers a unique bass and drums combo. The band's reputation has been growing steadily. The tune is catchy, but more fillers within the lines would've made the song a better production. Last but not the least, 'Kalo Desh' by Sent Men Revolt is a raging protest against the darkness in society. Although the arrangement seems out of place at times, the band pulled off an awesome track to end the album with a bang. Overall, the album contains both sides of the coin -- from great tracks to forgettable ones. The biggest complaint remains the audio mixing quality. But offering promising metal bands -- which often don't get deserved attention -- a platform to showcase their talents, is an effort that should be praised.



Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy is holding an eight-day long Circus Festival at its premises. Opening on June 1, the festival features acrobatics and performances by The Lion and Rowshan Circus troupes. PHOTO: MUMIT M.



Three-day Street Theatre Festival in Feni

ABU TAHER, Feni
With the theme 'Natok Hobey Rajpothey Jibon Juddho Eki Shatheya', a three-day district street theatre festival opened at Feni central Shaheed Minar premises on June 2. Bangladesh Patho Natak Parishad in collaboration with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has arranged the festival. Nine local troupes -- Pubali Sangskritik Kendra, Dhak Dhul Natya Sangsad, Samprii Niketan, Amantron Sangskritik Gosthi, Sukarna Theatre, Udayon Sangskritik Kendra, Feni Theatre, Sanglap Natya Gosthi and Feni Natya Gosthi -- are staging their productions at the festival that ends today. Feni Sadr Upazila chairman Abdur Rahman was the chief guest at the opening programme. Fulgazi Upazila chairman Ekramul Haque and member secretary of district Shilpakala Academy Humayun Kabir were special guests. Manzur Tamim presided over the inaugural session. Theatre personality Narayan Nag and poet Iqbal Chowdhury, among others, spoke on the occasion. Artists of Pubali Sangskritik Kendra staged their play 'Bichar Korbo' on the first day of the festival. The play depicted the brutality carried out by the Pakistani army and their cronies during the Liberation War. The play ends with a call to bring these war criminals to justice. Pintu Saha directed the production.

Rare Chaplin film goes up for sale



A rare Charlie Chaplin film, bought for £3.20 on eBay, is expected to fetch a six-figure sum when it goes up for auction in June. The film, 'Charlie Chaplin in Zeppel', is the only known surviving copy and is thought to feature some of the earliest-known animation. Collector Morace Park bought the film reel in 2009 because he liked the look of the film. The movie shows Chaplin bringing down a German Zeppelin aircraft. It is thought to have been made as a morale-boosting propaganda film for British troops. The footage lasts nearly seven minutes and features a Zeppelin raid over London. Park said he had consulted various experts about the film. Some thought it was an experimental movie, while others believed it was made without Chaplin's knowledge. Some academics believe the Zeppelin is real but it has also been suggested the aircraft is an early example of animation puppetry. During the First World War, Zeppelins were used in bombing raids over England and France. They were referred to as 'terrors of the sky'. The film was classified by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) in 1917. A footnote in the records shows that the film was given an export licence, and the beginning of the film has censorship frames suggesting it may have been sent over to troops based in Egypt. The movie will go up for auction at Bonham's in Knightsbridge, London, on June 29. Stephanie Connell, head of entertainment memorabilia at Bonham's, said: 'It will no doubt become a significant contribution to the history of early film.'

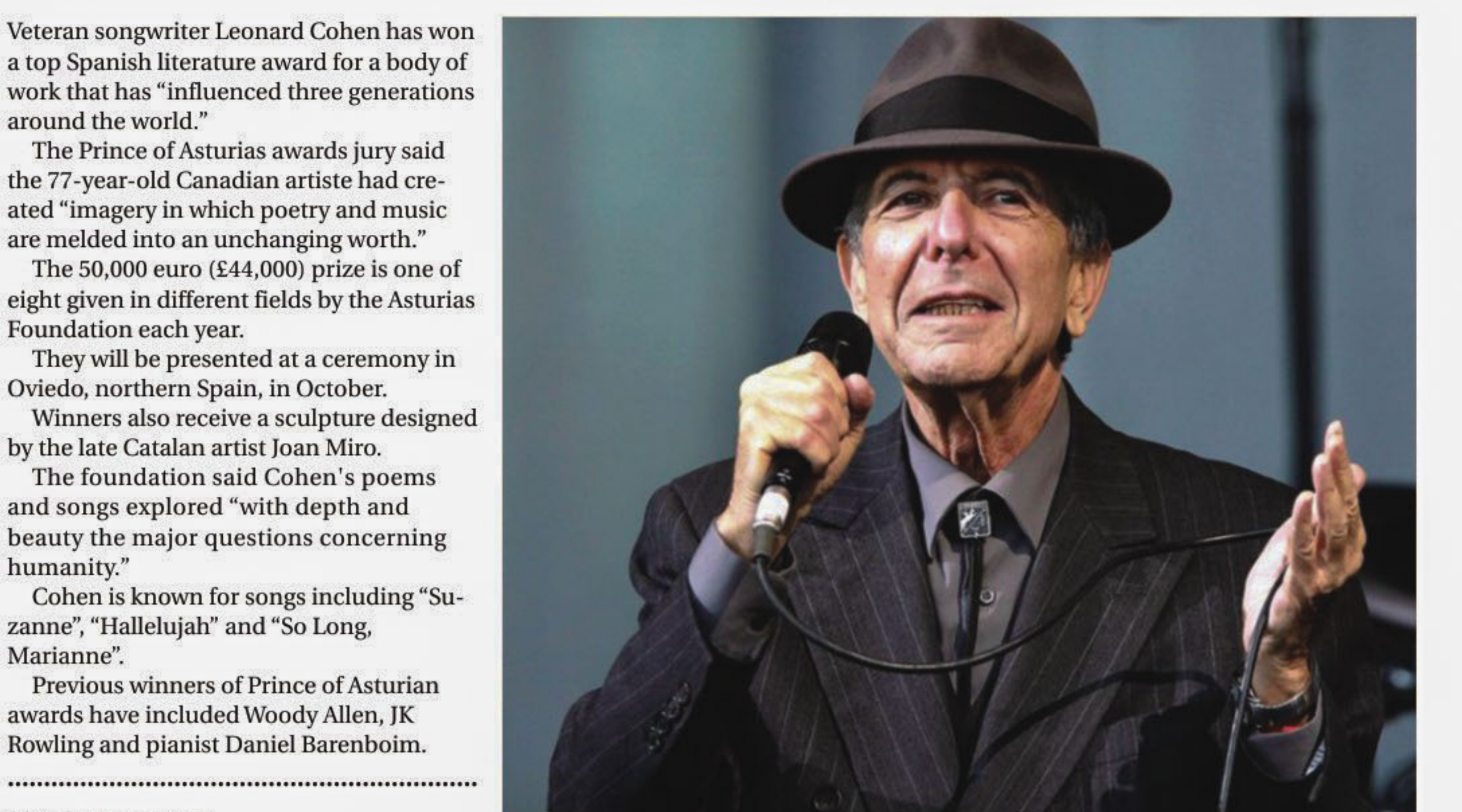


The tempestuous romance between Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton is to be made into a film by 'Goodfellas' director Martin Scorsese. Taylor, who died earlier this year aged 79, married eight times -- twice to Burton. The film is based on a book about the couple's relationship called 'Furious Love'. Burton and Taylor met on the set of 'Cleopatra' in 1962.

Martin Scorsese to direct film about Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton

Taylor, then a huge star, had the title role. Burton, a Welsh miner's son then best known as a Shakespearean actor, played Mark Anthony. They married in 1964 but divorced 10 years later after a relationship studded with violent and drink-fuelled rows that made headlines around the world. But in October 1975 they stunned the world by marrying again in Botswana, but this time it only lasted nine months. Burton said the couple lived 'on the edge of an exploding volcano.' He said: 'I'm not easy to be married to or live with. I exploded violently about twice a year with Elizabeth. She would also explode. It was marvelous. But it could be murder.'

Leonard Cohen wins Spanish literary award



Veteran songwriter Leonard Cohen has won a top Spanish literary award for a body of work that has 'influenced three generations around the world.' The Prince of Asturias awards jury said the 77-year-old Canadian artist had created 'imagery in which poetry and music are melded into an unchanging worth.' The 50,000 euro (£44,000) prize is one of eight given in different fields by the Asturias Foundation each year. They will be presented at a ceremony in Oviedo, northern Spain, in October. Winners also receive a sculpture designed by the late Catalan artist Joan Miró. The foundation said Cohen's poems and songs explored 'with depth and beauty the major questions concerning humanity.' Cohen is known for songs including 'Suzanne', 'Hallelujah' and 'So Long, Mariamne'. Previous winners of Prince of Asturias awards have included Woody Allen, JK Rowling and pianist Daniel Barenboim.

THE WEEKLY STRUM

THE WEEKLY STRUM
Song: Hallelujah
Artist: Leonard Cohen
Lyric and tune by Leonard Cohen
C6 Am
I heard there was a secret chord
C6 Am
That David played and it pleased the Lord,
F G C G
But you don't really care for music do you.
C F E F
It goes like this the fourth the fifth,
Am F
The minor fall and the major lift
G E E7 Am Am/G
The baffled king composing hallelujah
F Am F C6-G-C
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Halleluuujah
C6 Am
Your faith was strong but you needed proof
C6 Am
You saw her bathing on the roof
F G C G
Her beauty and the moonlight overthrew her
C F E F
She tied you to a kitchen chair
Am F
She broke your throne, and she cut your hair
G E E7 Am Am/G
And from your lips she drew the Hallelujah
F Am F C6-G-C
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Halleluuujah