

WHAT'S ON

Solo Photography Exhibition
Photographer: Hafiz Ahmed Nadeem
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dharmomdi
Date: October 4-8

Film Screening
Film: Sharenag Bani
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: October 4
Time: 11am

Tasher Desh
Troupe: Shubhona
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Oct. 6
Time: 7pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Master and the Apprentice
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dharmomdi
Date: October 7-18

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Symphony of Colours
Painter: Shumona Haque
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dharmomdi
Date: Oct. 2-11

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Portrait: Riddle of Characters
Artist: Apurba Kanti Das
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dharmomdi
Date: Sept. 30-Oct. 13
Time: 3-9pm

Theatre
Play: Banglar Mati
Troupe: Palakar
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: October 5

Film Screening
Title: Mati Mahal
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Gulshan-1
Date: October 20
Time: 6:30pm

THEATRE TODAY

"Creativity and organisational skills are equally important"

-- Mir Zahid Hasan, head of Mahakal Natya Sampraday

JAMIL MAHMUD

Mir Zahid Hasan is one of the founding members of Mahakal Natya Sampraday. Before forming the troupe in 1983, he worked with another theatre troupe, Shomoy, for two years. Four times general secretary and two times president of Mahakala, Zahid is very involved in the group theatre circuit. At present he holds the post of secretary (Publication), Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF) committee. Zahid has regularly performed in Mahakal plays as well. The troupe has so far produced 27 plays -- 13 stage and 14 street plays -- and has held nearly 800 shows at home and abroad. Zahid says that his troupe and its endeavours are his focus. According to him, the troupe aims to uphold the spirit of the Liberation War, and its plays convey messages to generate awareness against narrow-mindedness.

Two Mahakal plays -- "Shikhandi Kotha" and "Shonai Koinar Pala" -- have had over 100 shows. Zahid performs as an actor in the plays.

About his position in BGTF, Zahid says, "When there's a crisis, activists from across the country look to the centre and wait for its decision. The centre tries to initiate programmes to fulfil the demands. We often arrange workshops to provide more opportunities. We also try to encourage activists to remain committed to social causes." About the much-talked about issue



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

of lack of performance space, Zahid says, "Though we have several venues in Dhaka, most of them are not well equipped for theatre. We have Zahir Raihan Auditorium in Old Dhaka but troupes are often reluctant to perform there. If we can open up performance spaces in different parts of the city, this problem could be solved. For example, there are several troupes based in Mirpur. If there's a decent venue in that area, these troupes can perform there."

"There are over 70 BGTF member troupes in Dhaka, most of which fail to stage three or more shows in a month

because of financial limitations. As a result, sometimes we find the stages at Shilpakala Academy to be vacant. I think it's a 'chicken or egg' issue," he adds.

About the overall standard of recent productions, Zahid informs: "The standard is gradually rising. Young activists play a vital role behind these productions. Lesser known/newer troupes are staging experimental plays more."

Of late it seems that theatre cannot hold on to brilliant artists as the growing electronic media offers more lucrative opportunities. As a theatre activist, Zahid feels that it all depends on an individual's priorities and commitment. "Over the years popular TV actors such as Mamunur Rashid and Azad Abul Kalam have maintained equal dedication to the stage. We always find them with us. If young actors are leaving theatre they're doing so for reasons best known to them," says Zahid.

Zahid doesn't find any conflict between creativity and organisational skills in theatre. "There are people who are more creative, while some focus on organising aspects of the medium. To me, both are essential for theatre," he says.

Zahid believes that for a better prospect, young activists should gradually take up leadership. He feels that change in leadership is necessary, though sometimes seniors have to play vital roles during crisis.

Glimpses from 33rd ITI World Congress



ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The 33rd International Theatre Institute (ITI) World Congress was held in Xiamen, China during the third week of last month. Delegates from over 60 countries took part in the congress, where new strategies were adopted to make the umbrella organisation more effective. ITI leaders disclosed the new strategies at the general assembly that took place at the Xiamen International Conference and Exhibition Centre.

On the basis of the contemporary issues in global theatre or performing arts in general, the ITI leaders chose "Empowerment Performing Arts" as the theme of the congress. Ramendu Majumdar was unanimously re-elected as the President, for the next two years, on the concluding day of the congress. Ali Mahadi (of Sudan) and Ann Mari Engel (of Sweden) were elected Vice Presidents.

A newly elected 19-member executive council gave highest number of votes to Majumdar, who will obtain the post until 2013. Other members of the executive council are from USA, Germany, Jamaica, China, UAE



Different forms of Xiqu were demonstrated through performances at the congress that won the hearts of the participating delegates.

(Fujaiah), Sweden, Philippines, Korea, Slovenia, Burkina Faso, Netherlands, Belgium, Mexico, Japan and Switzerland.

The ITI leaders evaluated activities of the organisation and its committees over the past three years, and shared a new plan to meet the needs for the coming days. Brazil, Dominican Republic, Luxemburg, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Zimbabwe have become new members of ITI.

Tobias Biancone, Secretary General of the last committee, called for a stronger attachment to the performing arts that could help reduce conflicts across the globe. "I believe that we can come

up with a strategy, which makes people and governments aware of the value of our work, of our art, and of our artists," said Biancone.

At the congress, the institute honoured the ruler of Sharjah and member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates, Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al-Qasimi, with a gold medal for his outstanding contribution to the global performing arts as the main benefactor of ITI. In his speech, Al-Qasimi focused on the necessity of a new kind of theatre that would contribute to the creation of a "new humanity".

Dong Wei, former President of the Chinese Centre of ITI, honoured the ruler of Sharjah and member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates, Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al-Qasimi, with a gold medal for his outstanding contribution to the global performing arts as the main benefactor of ITI. In his speech, Al-Qasimi focused on the necessity of a new kind of theatre that would contribute to the creation of a "new humanity".

received an Award of Excellence on the inaugural day. He received the award for his continuous efforts and dedication to the organisational activities.

Newly elected Vice President Ali Mahadi referred to theatre's contribution to human welfare. He said, "The world is witnessing undesirable effects of development, and the wars are making appalling impacts on humanity. The importance of the arts, in particular theatre, is that it could contribute to the alleviation of conflict."

A decision to strengthen communication between centres across the globe was taken at the ITI Secretariat Meeting. The prime concern of the meeting was to emphasise on the importance of regional integration to make the organisation more effective. Nasiruddin Yousuff, General Secretary, Bangladesh Centre of ITI, attended the meeting.

The organisers provided an insight into traditional Chinese performing arts. Beside Beijing Opera, which is widely known throughout the world, China also boasts over 300 Xiqu (Chinese Opera) forms.

Different forms of Xiqu were demonstrated through performances at the congress that won the hearts of the participating delegates.

Young Practitioners' Committee of the ITI arranged a programme to promote and showcase the creativity of emerging talents.

ITI Congress Bulletin was published everyday for the first time throughout the congress, by a three member Bangladesh team. Delegates from different countries were able to learn more about the festival via the bulletin.

A 22-member delegation from Bangladesh ITI, led by its President Ataur Rahman, attended the congress. The 34th ITI World Congress will take place in Cuba in 2013.

The write up was prepared through interviews of delegates who attended the congress.

A rainbow in the sky within

Solo painting exhibition of Shumona Haque at Bengal Gallery



Dignitaries with the artist (3rd from right) at the exhibition.

ATIQUEL HAQUE CHOWDHURY

Drawing connoisseurs and enthusiasts is the prime motto of the media, art and cultural world. Creating a crescendo and a symphony of multifarious colours, Shumona Haque's brush touches all the corners of the heart. Viewers couldn't but fix their flickering eyes immediately on her art. Her delightful visions peep into the horizon of unfamiliarity, unfolding the smile of a dawn on her canvas.

Shumona is both an accomplished

vocalist and a painter. Her paintings provide the viewer with delightfully bright colours. It is neither simply a stroke of brush nor the forms of lines, but rather the manifestations of myriad colours. Her paintings certainly have depth, and express serenity amidst disorder and restlessness. Her lines and colours change from time to time, but this change has made Shumona build a rapport with life and surroundings. Her paintings enchant the viewers and stir their hearts. Her controlled artistic existence has been projected in her works as well. The



strokes of her brush can move easily but her expressions are full of passion. Her works are an excellent fusion of light and colours that overcome the periphery of grammar, creating an orchestra of harmony.

Shumona leads the viewers to a world of sublime beauty. Her paintings are glaring examples of romanticism and delightfulness combined. Each of her works has an uncomplicated allure. They also project shadowy darkness through a unique combination of contrasting movements. The colours move turbulently at times. The artist seems fluent in using the colours. They are a feast for the eye and the mind. The texture of colours is very concrete.

Shumona has depicted the colours in her paintings as the shimmering sun distributes its rays everywhere, making the world beautiful. The quality of the paintings depends on their universal language and appeal. Her creativity can create links between people in a world of chaos and conflict. The world is full of clouds but every now and then there are visions of rainbows that delineate hope -- that is what Shumona's paintings stand for.

The writer is a media personality.



An evening of classical music in Chittagong

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

Musical enthusiasts of the port city were enthralled by a musical soiree featuring classical vocal performances of Ustad Swarnamoy Chakrabarty and Kanakchampa Kayastagir on 'bilambit ektal', following a short khayal -- "Piya ki najariya". Surajit Sen accompanied the artists on the tabla.

Rajib Chakrabarty performed 'tabla lahora' in 'teen tal', followed by a range of 'tukra' 'kaida', 'paran' and 'tehayi'. The programme ended with a performance by Ustad Swarnamoy Chakrabarty. With the bandish "Saajan Mora Ghar Aayi" he first rendered Raag Malkauns in 'bilambit ektal', followed by a bandish in 'drut teental'.

Liton Das and Anamika Das Chowdhury accompanied the artists on the harmonium and tanpura.



Monthly musical magazine Sargam celebrated its 15th anniversary through a programme at the Conference Lounge of National Press Club, on October 1. Former secretary and musicologist Abdush Shakoor, Nazrul researcher Asadul Haq, poet Asad Chowdhury, Press Club President Kamaluddin Sabuj and Sargam editor Quazi Rownaq Hossain, among others, seen in this photo.

Dancing to Puja beats
Dhak and dhol players reap rich returns

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

As in previous years, 'dhak' (big drum) and 'dhol' (smaller drum) artistes from Rajshahi, Magura, Narayanganj, Sirajganj, Bikrampur, Dhaka, Natore, Bogra and the greater Mymensingh region gathered at Dashbhuja Pujabari on Durgabari Road on October 1, just before the start of Durga Puja.

The instrumentalists are attracted to the temple as the celebration is the best way of earning a reasonable income. "I come to Mymensingh town for better returns every year, and this year I hope for the same," said Romani Das from Kishoreganj, asserting that dhak and dhol artistes are involved in different professions and only occasionally perform at such festivals.

"We are expecting better returns this year as the number of puja mandap (venues) has increased in the district, which has fuelled the

demand for dhak and dhol artistes," said Simon Das. Marking the celebration, a total of 641 puja mandap have been set up in 12 upazilas of the district this year.

The artistes also point out that besides earning a handsome amount during the six-day celebration, they also come to receive Divine blessings.

Raj Kumar Das, an eminent dhak performer of Mymensingh, who represents artistes from different districts, said that as the artistes have no platform or organisation behind them, many have to perform on their own. In many cases they are denied fair returns, he added.

Marking the occasion, the puja celebration committees of different mandap here have undertaken programmes including blood donation camps, arati competition, proshad (offering) distribution, distribution of clothes among the poor and cultural functions.



SURMA's memorial for Mridulkanti

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students United for Research in Musical Activities (SURMA) organised a memorial programme in honour of noted singer and researcher Dr. Mridulkanti Chakrobarty on October 1 at Natmandal, Dhaka University (DU) campus. Dr. Chakrobarty was the founder of the musical organisation.

State Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, Dipankar Talukder; Additional Deputy Inspector General of Police Fani Bhushan Chowdhury; Kuleli Islam, chairman, Music Department, DU; noted Tagore artistes Rezwana Chowdhury Bonny, Sadi Muhammad; Sabir

Ahmed Chowdhury, president of SURMA; Zillur Rahman, vice president of SURMA, Kamol Khalid, general secretary of the organisation, among others,

spoke on the occasion.

Sabir Ahmed Chowdhury said, "Dr. Chakrobarty was born in Sunamganj. The Surma river, which flows across the district, made an indelible impression on his mind. He had a great attachment to his native region. The decision to name our organisation 'SURMA' reflects that affinity."

Kamol Khalid said, "Sir [Chakrobarty] was committed to truth and beauty." "I feel his absence greatly. He founded the Music Department at Dhaka University and created opportunities for higher education in music in the country," said Kuleli Islam. Zillur Rahman said, "Though Chakrobarty was born in a conservative Brahmin family, he crossed many barriers in his lifetime. He was a free thinker and was against all kinds of intolerance."

Surviving Beatles attend George Harrison film premiere

The surviving Beatles have paid tribute to George Harrison at the London premiere of Martin Scorsese's new documentary about his life.

Sir Paul McCartney called the guitarist, who died in 2001, "a great man" and "an all-round good boy". Scorsese told the BBC he had been drawn to tell Harrison's story because of the outlook of his lyrics.

"For years, his music seemed to be dealing with themes that I connected with," he said. "I found comfort in them and a hope and a special experience listening to his music. I was fascinated by him."

The Oscar-winning director said Harrison's love of India had changed western culture.

"George was the one to open our minds to this, that this could be of value to you in your life, to you and everyone you love. His music really expresses that."

The documentary, George Harrison: Living In The Material World, will receive a limited cinematic release, before being shown on the BBC in the UK and on HBO in the US.

It is split into two parts - first chronicling the Beatles' rise to fame, then documenting the solo years, when Harrison juggled music with



Martin Scorsese, Sir Paul McCartney, Yoko Ono, Olivia Harrison and Ringo Starr joined forces for the film screening.

philanthropic work and a career as a movie impresario.

Five years in the making, the three-and-a-half hour film was pieced together as Scorsese worked on Shutter Island and forthcoming 3D family film Hugo.

He said it had been made possible by Harrison's widow, Olivia, who threw open the family archive of photos, home videos and personal effects.

At one point in the film, Dhani Harrison is heard reading from his father's diary: "January 10 - got up, went to Twickenham, rehearsed until lunchtime, left The Beatles."

Olivia Harrison told the BBC it had been "hard to part with" ele-

ments of the archive, "but they finally convinced me it was ok."

In London, the premiere was attended by the Beatles' former producer Sir George Martin, Yoko Ono, Noel Gallagher, Sir Ben Kingsley, Billy Connolly, Terry Gilliam, Ronnie Wood and Harrison's former wife, Pattie Boyd.

Sir Paul, who was accompanied by his fiancée Nancy Shevell, said watching the film had been an emotional experience. Ringo Starr said it was moving that films were still being made about the guitarist, 10 years after his death.

SOURCE: BBC

ATN BANGLA	10:30	Kumari Puja (Live)
12:15	Off Time	Musical Programme
05:20	Obiram Bangladesh	Shur Uchheh Plane
08:40	Drama Serial: Ei Shahorey	Daker Dak
		Shomoy Katuk Gaane Gaane
10:55	Drama Serial: Uttaradikar	
01:15	ATN Music	
CHANNEL 1	10:52	Bangla Feature Film
01:05	Ebhong Cinemar Gaan	Heer-er Kabho
04:05	Business Talk	Drama Serial: Santaran
06:00	Drama Serial: Dahan	Hari Jitee Nahi Laaj
06:20	Drama Serial: Robin Hood	Gaankora
07:50	Khude Gaanraj	Diganta TV
		Business Time Live
04:10	Janar Achhey Bolar	Career Line
	Achhey	Jibon Onnesha
06:10	Shubho Shondhya	Drama Serial: Shahaj
08:15	Drama Serial: Dur Paharer Batashera	Manush
		Priyo Shilpi Priyo Gaan
		Z Studio
		Tears of the Sun

RADIO			
abc radio FM 89.2	07:30	Hello Dhaka	
06:00	Bhorer Janjala	10:00	Morning Express
09:00	Mukhonto Jiboney	12:00	No Tension
12:00	Duram Dupurey	04:00	Dhaka Calling
03:00	Duranto Bikelley	09:00	Knight Riders
05:00	Shondha Tara	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6	
07:00	Shaj-er Majra	08:00	Good Morning Dhaka
09:00	Raat-er Akashy	12:00	Today's Adda
11:00	Galper Shesh Nei	04:00	U Turn
Radio Footi	07:00	Tobey Tai Hok	
	10:00	Raat Shor Gaan	

Raat Biratey
On Maasranga
Television at 11:25pm
Street Show
Guest: Tele Samad

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo
On HBO at 12:05pm
Genre: Crime/Drama
Cast: Michael Nyqvist, Noomi

Pother Dabi
On Maasranga
Television at 08:00pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Zahid Hassan, Zakia Bari Momo

09:00	Glamour World	04:15	Terminal Velocity
11:30	Drama Serial: Terminal	06:30	Plates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl
Rtv		09:30	The Alamo
12:35	Bangla Feature Film	09:30	Star Movies
05:00	Cinema R Gaan	06:45	Last Action Hero
09:05	Kiran	09:00	Vampires: Los Muertos
11:30	Liba Madhuri	10:35	Centurion
12:05	Kichhu Dekha Kichhu Kotha	12:15	The Lost Future
ETV			
11:30	Ektushy-er Business		
04:30	Gaaner Opore	04:40	Pride and Glory
05:30	Bloodonner Bichwa	07:15	Bridge Jones: The Edge of Reason
07:50	Music Station	09:30	Out of Sight
08:20	Drama Serial: Ohongkar	12:05	The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo
11:05	Shokal Belar Roddur		
01:05	Bangla Feature Film		
05:20	Poriksha Prostuti	07:30	India's Most Desirable
09:05	Chakri Chai	09:30	Master Chef Australia
11:25	Raat Biratey	10:30	Criminal Minds
Desh TV		12:00	Home Improvement
04:30	Durpath		
06:30	Esho Anandita Tilok	08:30	World War II in Colour
	Banditria	09:30	Man vs. Wild
09:45	Ke Hote Chay Kotipoti	11:50	Destroyed in Seconds
11:45	Unshah AJ Game	12:00	Factory Made
Boishakhi TV			

DRAMA SERIAL			
ATN BANGLA		09:05pm	Boiya Panbar
08:00pm	Adarsha Mess Bari	ETV	
09:20pm	Poosh Phuguner Pala	09:30pm	Ghatat Baki Bhai
CHANNELi		BANGLAVISION	
09:35pm	Ela Pakhi	08:15pm	No Problem
ntv		Desh TV	
09:45pm	Akasher Niche Manush	07:45pm	Gohinye
Rtv		08:15pm	Sat Kahon
08:20pm	Shaht Purusher Dhaka	Maasranga Television	

NEWS BULLETIN	
RTV	
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am	
2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.	
News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm.	
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).	
News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am	
rtv	
News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am	
ATN BANGLA	
NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am, 01:00pm, 3:00pm, 04:00pm	
News (English): 9:00 am, 6:00 pm.	
BANGLAVISION	
News (Bangla) at 7:30am, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.	
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.	
News (English) at 6:00pm	
Rtv	
News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am	
rtv	
News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am	
ETV	
News (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm	

TALK SHOW	
ATN BANGLA	
10:30am	Lead News
11:15am	Vision 2020
CHANNEL 1	
09:45am	Tritto Matra
12:30pm	Tanika Kothon
rtv	
12:30pm	Ei Shomoy
Rtv	
10:40am	Tankalap
07:40pm	Our Democracy
ETV	
10:10pm	Galpo Shalpo Gaan
Boishakhi TV	
12:00am	Zero Hour
Maasranga Television	
07:30pm	Prime Issue
12:00am	Shampoktik