

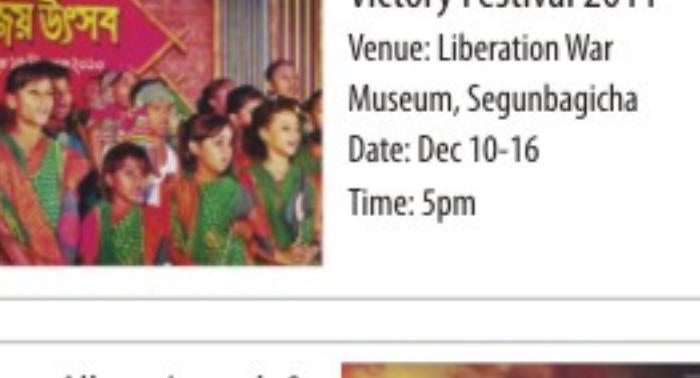
WHAT'S ON



Victory Day Celebration
Organiser: Bangladesh
Shilpkala Academy
Venue: Shilpkala Academy premises



GongMyong Concert
Organiser: Embassy of the Republic of Korea
Venue: Auditorium, National Museum, Shabagh
Date: Dec 11



Victory Festival 2011
Venue: Liberation War Museum, Segunbagicha
Date: Dec 10-16
Time: 5pm



Album Launch & Cultural Programme
Album: Jagor-er Gaan-3
Venue: Shikha Chirontan, Suhrawardy Udyan



Photography Exhibition
Celebrating 40 years of Independence
Venue: La Galerie and Galerie Zoom
Date: Dec 9-22
Time: 3-9pm

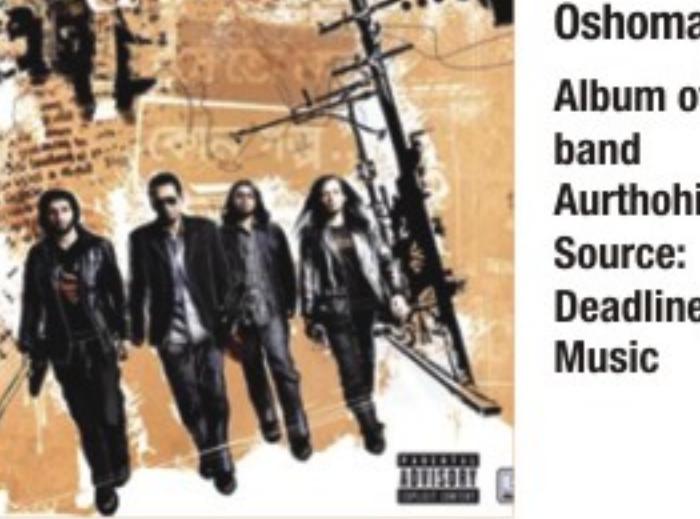


Exhibition
Title: Tagore and Kantha
Venue: Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy
Date: Dec 2-10
Time: 11am-7pm

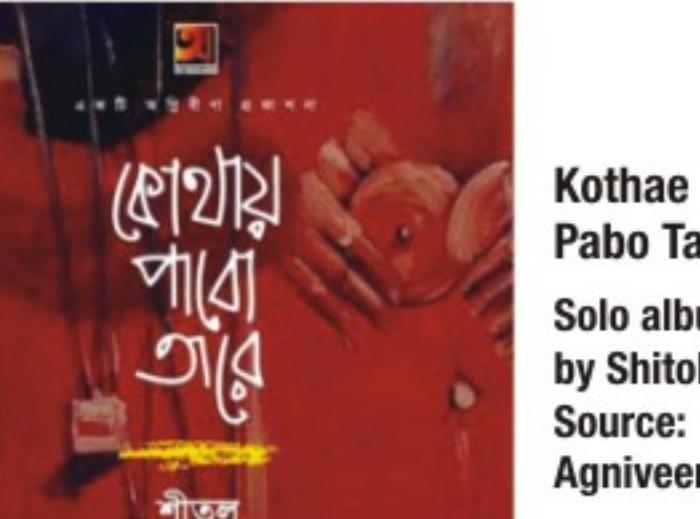


Group Art Exhibition
Title: Masters of Bangladesh Art '11
Venue: Radius Centre, Gulshan-1
Date: Nov 25-Dec 17

NEW RELEASES



Oshomato-2
Album of the band Aurtherhin
Source: Deadline Music



Kothae Pabo Tarey
Solo album by Shitol
Source: Agniveena



Tritio Jatra
Album of the band Nemesis
Source: Deadline Music



Play it Now
Band Mixed
Album
Source: G-Series

ERRATUM

In "Shafeen Ahmed @DS Café", published in yesterday's issue of Star Arts & Entertainment, the Miles frontman's name was spelled as 'Shafeen Ahmed'. In the same write-up, he was also mentioned as 'Shafeen Chowdhury'. According to the artiste, his name is spelled 'Shafin Ahmed'. We deeply regret the errors.

Travels through Liberty

In conversation with Ramendu Majumdar



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ing of plays at Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy and other venues, in the evening, people get stuck in gridlocks. We need to open up more theatre venues across the city.

From a regular citizen's point of view, achievement in theatre over the last four decades is not exactly astounding. Yes, it's true that we are recognised as a developing nation with a thriving cultural heritage across the globe, but the political intolerance and corruption constantly tarnish our image. We need able governance and mutual understanding among political parties.

There is a misconception that theatre has lost its popularity. The fact is in the 1970s and '80s, troupes and plays were lesser in number. So, their presence made a strong impact. If a new play came to the stage, people knew right away, as it was talked about widely.

However, I have to admit that we have failed to substantially encourage the growth of the audience. There are few reasons behind this. For one, Dhaka suffers from severe traffic jams, and prior to the stag-

ing of plays at Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy and other venues, in the evening, people get stuck in gridlocks. We need to open up more theatre venues across the city.

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During the Liberation War, I mainly stayed in Kolkata. I worked at the Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra. I compiled Bangabandhu's speeches and other important notes, titled as "Bangladesh, Amar Bangladesh" (Bangladesh, My Bangladesh), which was later published from Delhi (in English) and from Dhaka (in Bengali).

TAGORE IN QUILTS



Dilip Barua and Sanjay Bhattacharya with other dignitaries at the exhibition.

ZAHANGIR ALAM

development of the craft in Bangladesh, was a special guest at the inauguration.

Upon entering the gallery, viewers would notice a portrait of Tagore on a kantha; the edges feature the Indian national anthem "Jana Gana Mana Adhinayak Jai Hey" written by Tagore, done in calligraphy.

The story of an Afghan man named Rahmat who would sell dried fruits and nuts on the streets of Calcutta and befriended a Bengali girl called Mini because she reminded him of his daughter back in Afghanistan has been beautifully depicted on a kantha.

Another work based on a Tagore poem, titled "Dui Bigha Jomi", is on display. The kantha superbly sketches the excerpt "Mon-e Bhabhila Morey Bhogbon Rakhibeena Moho Gortey, Tai Likhi Dillo Bishwa Nikhil Du'bighar Boribortey" from the poem. A work themed on a Tagore song "Krishnokoli Ami Tarei Boli" and several other folk themed works are also on display.

Several works on "Bhanu Singer Padaboli" are being exhibited as well.

Inspired by the story of young English poet Chatterton, Tagore embarked on a literary adventure at 16. Under the pseudonym of Bhanu Singh, Tagore wrote several poems in the old Bengali dialect.

Tagore created several timeless dance-dramas, "Chandalika" and "Chitrangada" are two of them. "Chandalika" zooms in on a girl named Prakriti who is ostracised by the society. She does not understand the composition of the verse that was composed by Tagore.

The exhibition was inaugurated by the Minister for Industries, Dilip Barua.

Acting High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, Sanjay Bhattacharya, attended the event. Professor Niaz Zaman, who has researched and written extensively on the genesis and

sequences of her birth into a family that is regarded as "untouchable". "Chitrangada" focuses on a love affair between Princess Chitrangada, the heir to the throne of Manipur, and the mythical hero Arjun. At the exhibition, kantha works paid homage to these two classic dance-dramas.

A kantha tells the tragic story of Amol of "Dakghar", another play by Tagore.

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The exhibition was open from 11am to 7pm everyday and ends today (December 10).

Goethe-Institut: Rising to new challenges

ANDREE STOESSEL

Goethe-Institut, the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany, has been present in Bangladesh for 50 years now. Recently, German President Christian Wulff visited the institute located in Dhamondi, Dhaka. For Judith Mirschberger, Director of Goethe-Institut (GI), it was a great honour to hear from the German President that GI has made significant contribution to the German-Bangla cooperation.

Mirschberger shared her views with The Daily Star recently:

What does Goethe-Institut do to bring Bangladesh and Germany closer?

Mirschberger: The Goethe-Institut promotes the German language abroad, fosters cultural exchange and tries to convey a comprehensive picture of modern Germany by providing information on the cultural, social and political life.

Could you elaborate on this?

Mirschberger: Our main task is teaching German language. We count nearly 1000 inscriptions for the courses per year and around 300 tests are completed. The cultural

events at the Goethe-Institut include music performances, theatre and exhibitions. We regularly invite German artists and experts and bring them in contact with local artists and experts. Furthermore our library offers a wide range of information on German literature and electronic media.

Is the German Language Programme successful in Bangladesh?

Mirschberger: Many who enrol in the programme are students who intend to study in Germany. A proof of language skills is necessary to receive a residence permit from the German state. In addition, the GI cooperates with five schools in Dhaka and Chittagong, where German classes have recently been introduced.

But the Goethe-Institut is not only open to students, right?

Mirschberger: Our doors are open to everyone, seven days a week. We have two cafes where students, employees, neighbours and everyone else can meet. Also the cultural programmes are open to the public. Only access to some workshops is limited.

The cultural centre cooperates with national and internal institutions?

What's in the pipeline for Goethe-Institut?

Mirschberger: Our greatest challenge is to generate enough German speaking teachers and keep the number on a constant level. It will take a while for German language to have a strong foothold in the literary circuit of Bangladesh. We want to keep experimenting. We are planning several projects in public space for next year. Goethe-Institut is a platform, an open space, where new things can happen.

For further information, please go to www.goethe.de/dhaka.

The author is working as an intern for The Daily Star.



Bengal Art Lounge opens today



(From left) Katerina Don, Monirul Islam, Nawshin Khair, Subir Chowdhury and Sarwar Jahan at the press conference.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Foundation is going to open Bengal Art Lounge today at 60, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka. Besides the formal opening, the gallery will also hold a painting exhibition, titled "Of Rupture and Continuity", featuring the works of noted Bangladeshi expatriate painter-printmaker Monirul Islam. The exhibition opens today as well, and will continue till December 23.

Dr Dipu Moni, Minister for Foreign Affairs, will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest. Eminent artist Qayum Chowdhury will be present as the special guest.

On the occasion, Bengal Foundation held a press conference yesterday at Bengal Art Lounge. Artist Monirul Islam; Abul Khair, chairman of Bengal Foundation; Subir Chowdhury, director of Bengal Gallery; Nawshin Khair, director of Bengal Art Lounge; Katerina Don, assistant manager of Bengal Art Lounge, among others, spoke at the programme.

Sarwar Jahan, manager of the Bengal Gallery, read out an essay on the artist and his works.

Monirul Islam was born in 1943. After graduating from Govt. College of Arts and Crafts (now faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka), he joined the college as a teacher (from 1968 to 1969). He went to Spain with a scholarship provided by the then Spanish Government, as part of a cultural exchange programme, in 1969. The artist received the Acces National Award of Spain from the Calcoffra Nacion in 1993. His works have been exhibited in several countries. His works have been exhibited not only in Madrid, but also other prominent galleries in Europe and beyond.

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