

WHAT'S ON

Victory Day Celebration
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Shilpakala Academy premises
Date: Dec 1-31, Time: 6:30pm

Group Painting Exhibition
Title: 40- Of Struggle and Creativity
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H-42, R-16/01, Dhanmondi
Date: Dec 25- Jan 03
Time: 12-8pm

Book Launch
Title: Television Areek Jibon
Venue: Ballroom, Hotel Ruposhi Bangla
Date: December 25
Time: 12pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Shahabuddin Ahmed
Venue: National Museum, Shahabagh,
Date: Dec 19-28
Time: 10am-8:30pm (Friday: 3-8:30pm)

Concert
Venue: Lt. Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club Limited, Kabaigan
Date: December 25
Time: 4:30pm

Group Art Exhibition
Organiser: Aron Club Bangladesh
Venue: Asiatic Gallery of Fine Arts, 5, Old Secretariat Road, Nirmali
Date: Dec 17-26
Time: 12-9pm

National Folk Music Fest 2010-2011
Organiser: Bangladesh Lok Sanggeet Parishad
Venue: Chittagong & Dhaka
Date: Dec 24, 26, 31
Time: 10am onwards

Theatre
Play: Shesher Kobita
Troupe: Theatre Art Unit
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: Dec 24
Time: 06:45pm

IN CONVERSATION

Kumar Bishwajit: Reintroducing former hits

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

As a student of class seven, he participated in an inter-district school competition on music. Finding his vocals mature, the radio authority included the young singer in a programme, "Nabokallol". In 1977, along with Ayub Bachchu, Miki Mannan and Pihu Khan, he formed a band that would practice regularly. Since the song "Torey Putuler Moto Korey Shajjye" recorded by him came out, he hadn't looked back.

For three decades, Kumar Bishwajit has held sway over music enthusiasts in Bangladesh. The Daily Star (TDS) recently caught up with the artiste.

TDS: You have recently launched 40 songs in four albums. Could you tell us more about them?

Bishwajit: I've been deeply involved in the music scene for 30 years. During this long journey, I have sung many songs. These selected 40 songs have been released by G Series. The albums are: "Megher Anagana", "Ekta Akash", "Shopper Palki" and "Premer Abash". All these songs have also been made available to Grameen Phone subscribers.

TDS: You have won two National Awards this year, as a singer and a music director...

Bishwajit: Yes, I won both the awards for the movie "Shami Strir Waada". I was the music director and singer of the song, "Ekta Chand Chhara Raat", featured in the film. Lyricist Kabir Bakul won a National Award for the song as well.

TDS: When did you do your first playback?

Bishwajit: It was in 1982, for the movie "Inspector". Since then, I have done numerous playbacks.

TDS: What is your opinion of music launched on mobile phones?
Bishwajit: I think we have to move with changing technologies, that's all I can say.

TDS: What do you think of this generation of musicians and artists?

Bishwajit: The popular trend seems to be heavily dependent on technology. I know I said that we have to move with technology, but one needs to draw the line somewhere. You cannot expect "soul" in a song that's more or less a product of technological manipulation. I call them "Machine Songs". At times I feel angry at these practices.

TDS: What differences do you see between music today and when you started?

Bishwajit: A lot of differences, the biggest of which is technology. Technology is playing a big role - ensuring great sound quality and opportunity to use instruments and styles we were not familiar with.

TDS: Whom do you admire among the musicians today?
Bishwajit: Definitely Habib Wahid. Many of his songs are stirring and can be considered remarkable mood enhancers.

TDS: What do you miss the most?

Bishwajit: I miss my school days a lot. We used to fly kites, pick mangoes, fetch eggs from birds' nests, and go to fairs at Sitakunda. Those



are days I will always miss.

TDS: What has been your biggest achievement as a musician?
Bishwajit: Love and affection from everyone. The people of this country have given me a lot of love, which would have been impossible had I not been a singer. I consider that to be my biggest accomplishment.

TDS: Whom would you blame for the declining music market?
Bishwajit: I would blame piracy for this. This is what caused the catastrophic downfall in the music market. I think internet, FM radio, free download are to blame.

TDS: Tell us about your next album.
Bishwajit: I'm working on it at the moment. So far I have completed three songs. Hopefully, the album will be launched next year.

TDS: What plans do you have at the moment?

Bishwajit: I have survived and thrived in the music scene over the last three decades. I've had the opportunity to sing some really good songs. Unfortunately, some of them are now unappreciated and unnoticed. Hardly anyone knows about them due to lack of publicity. I want to breathe a new lease of life into these compositions by reintroducing them to the audience.



A RAINBOW OF NOTES AND TAAAN

Fifth Hindustani Classical Music Festival begins at Chhayanaaut

ZAHANGIR ALOM

A two-day long Hindustani Classical Music Festival (both vocal and instrumental) began at the main auditorium of Chhayanaaut Shangskriti Bhavan in Dhaka on December 22.

Veteran music exponent Pandit Ramkanai Das formally inaugurated the festival as chief guest. A number of Chhayanaaut artistes rendered the national anthem as the chief guest formally launched the event. The organisers also honoured the chief guest with an untario and flowers.

Speeches by general secretary of Chhayanaaut, Khairul Anam Shakil; Ramkanai Das and vice president of Chhayanaaut, Dr. Sarwar Ali, followed. Dr. Sarwar Ali presided over the inaugural session. Treasurer of the organisation, Pradip Nag, was also present.

Chhayanaaut artistes kicked off the soiree with performing dhruwad and khayal based on Raga Bhupali. One of Chhayanaut's

classical music gurus, Anup Barua, directed the performance. With his pakhawaj, Shushen Kumar Roy accompanied the artistes on chautaal during the dhruwad performance.

Another Chhayanaut guru, Rezwan Ali Lavlu, performed khayal at the festival. He rendered vilambit and drut bandish on Raga Puria Dhaneshree. Zakir Hossain on tabla, Alamgir Parvez Suman on harmonium, Matiar Rahman on tanpura instrumentally assisted the performer.

A solo tabla performance by a Chhayanaut artiste, Gautam Kumar Sarkar, followed. Gautam was very fast in producing beats. The artiste demonstrated several qaida of Benaras Gharana. He also produced several bol prior to performing the respective qaida. Ratan Kumar Das accompanied the artiste with harmonium.

The last performer of the inaugural day was Ashwini Bhide Deshpande, a Mumbai-based accomplished vocalist of the famed

Jaipur-Atrauli Khayal Gayaki tradition. Renowned Indian tabla artiste Vishwanath Shirodkar; his wife, harmonium player Seema Shirodkar, and Bangladeshi tanpura artiste Latifun Julio accompanied the featured artiste.

Ashwini Bhide Deshpande started her performance with a vilambit and drut bandish on Raga Behag. Her rendition was full of dramatised improvisation. With the bandish, "Bajere Mori Payal Jhanana", the performance highlighted her finesse. She rendered the words of the bandish during a speedy taan performance. She effortlessly touched all the three Sa of the scale. A rapt audience frequently put their hands together to admire the performance.

Her second performance was a rare composition on Raga Bageshree, as she went on a unique taal (nine and a half beats). A dadra performance followed. And last but not the least, the artiste performed a thumri on Raga Bhairavi.

Mobile phone operator Robi sponsored the festival.



PHOTO: GOLAM MAHUS

Clockwise (from top left): Pandit Ramkanai Das speaks at the opening of the festival; Ashwini Bhide Deshpande (2-L) and Dr. Rezwan Ali Lavlu perform at the programme.

Group art exhibition at Bengal Gallery



Finance Minister AMA Muhith at the exhibition.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To mark the 40th anniversary of the independence and Tagore's 150th birth anniversary, Bengal Gallery of

Dhanmondi, Dhaka. The participating artists were Qayyum Chowdhury, Samarjeet Roy Chowdhury, Hashem Khan, Rafiqun Nabi, Mahmudul Haque, Shahid Kabir, Farida Zaman, Mohammad Eunus, Kanak Champa Chakma, Mohammad Iqbal, Tayeba Begum Lipi and Anisuzzaman.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith inaugurated the exhibition on December 19. The exhibition ended on December 22. Subir Chowdhury, director of Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, participating artists and high officials of BATB were present at the inaugural ceremony.

The exhibition was the outcome of the three-day BATB-Bengal Art Camp 2011, held recently at BATB's Guest House Complex in Kushtia. A total of 24 paintings were produced at the camp; the theme was the national anthem.

Homage to Bhupen Hazarika in Dinajpur

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

A cultural programme -- a musical tribute to eminent Indian singer, journalist and filmmaker Bhupen Hazarika -- was organised here recently. The event also included a discussion.

Artists of Dinajpur Udichi hosted the programme at Dinajpur Natya Samiti Auditorium.

The programme began with placing wreaths at a portrait of Hazarika. At the discussion, speakers were of the view that Hazarika was a multi-faceted genius from Assam (India). Winner of many awards, including the 1992 Dadasaheb Phalke Award for outstanding contribution to Indian cinema (particularly through his folk songs), Hazarika has been equally popular in India and Bangladesh.



PHOTO: STAR

Artistes sing at the programme.

As a child artiste he started his career in 1929 and gradually became a distinguished poet, singer, music composer, teacher, journalist and author -- they added.

The discussion was chaired by Kazi Borhan, head of Dinajpur Natya Samiti.



As someone whose life was upended by the Cultural Revolution, the Chinese director Zhang Yimou, 60, has every reason to be wary of politics. His new film, "The Flowers of War," is China's submission for the Academy Award for best foreign-language film and has already picked up a Golden Globe nomination. It deals with one of the most horrific episodes in modern Chinese history: the Nanjing Massacre of December 1937.

"The Flowers of War," which stars Christian Bale as an American drifter, was itself thrust into a political controversy after Bale, in China for the film's premiere, was roughed up by plainclothes security officials when he tried to visit a human rights activist.

Initial reviews of the film have been mostly negative, but last month, before the controversy, Zhang was in the United States to talk about the movie. He discussed the challenges and process of writing and filming in China with a multinational and multilingual cast. Here are edited excerpts:

Q. The Nanjing Massacre has been the subject of numerous books, feature films and documentaries, and is widely taught in Chinese schools. What made you want to address it again?

A. I have seen so many television programs and documentary films about the Nanjing massacre, and every single project is so depressing. It's all been very similar to me, so as a director that's a challenge. I became interested: how would you make a movie a different way, under a different light?

Q. The closing credits of the film make clear that you obtained official cooperation in the making of "The Flowers of War." Was that difficult, given the fact that so many of your characters are outsiders -- prostitutes, Catholic convent girls, Westerners -- and your treatment of the subject diverges from the Communist Party's line?

A. Actually, because all of the locations are owned by the government, you have to have their approval in order to have access. So any Chinese movie will have this kind of support from the government. It is necessary, and there are regulations. The most difficult part is after the movie is made, when you have to get the approval of the government, through censorship. That is more difficult, but it's a procedure you just have to go through. The Chinese government is changing, it's actually less and less strict. But still, it's at a very slow pace and in the end, I had to make some adjustments in terms of editing for this film to get it approved.

Q. With many film directors, it takes two or even three years to make a movie. But you make a movie almost every year. How do you manage to be so productive?

A. This is based on my lifestyle. First of all, I love to make movies. I don't love doing anything else; on a personal level, I don't have any hobbies or distractions of my own. So I devote 100 percent of

Zhang Yimou and the challenges of filming in China



A scene from Zhang Yimou's "Flowers of War."

my time to filmmaking.

Q. What are your personal experiences of the Cultural Revolution?

A. I was really just a farmer, like everyone else, feeding the livestock, tilling the land, plowing the fields. It was a very difficult time. All I can remember is that I never felt I had a full stomach. I was always hungry.

Q. Are the Oscars important to Chinese audiences and filmmakers?

A. For the ordinary folk in China, this is the biggest award, and so the expectation is there. They really want the movie to win. But for me, it's already a big deal that it could even go into the Oscar as a selected film and potentially be nominated.

SOURCE: THE NEW YORK TIMES

BONNA MIRZA @ DS CAFÉ



The gorgeous and talented actress Bonna Mirza is the celebrity of the month at DS Café. She will be on the hot seat and take your calls at the Daily Star office on Thursday, December 29, between 2:30 and 3:30 pm. Fans can ask about her life on and off screen! The best question will be highlighted in the transcription. Call 8126155, 01711623915 and 01711623917.

THE WEEKLY STRUM



Song: Follow Me
Album: Take Me to Tomorrow (1970)
Artist: John Denver
Lyrics and tune by John Denver

.....D.....A.....D.....
It's by far the hardest thing I've ever done

.....G.....C.....A.....
To be so in love with you so alone

.....D.....G.....D.....G.....
.....

Follow me where I go, what I do, do I know
.....D.....G.....A.....
Make it part of you to be a part of me

.....D.....G.....D.....
.....G.....
Follow me up and down, all the way and all around

D.....G.....A.....D.....
Take my hand and say you'll follow me

.....D.....A.....G.....
.....D.....
It's been long on my mind, you know it's been a long long time

.....A.....G.....
.....A.....

I tried to find away that I could make you understand
.....G.....D.....G.....
.....

The way I feel about you and just how much I need you
.....G.....C.....
.....

To be there where I can talk to you, when there's no one else around
.....D.....A.....
G.....D.....
You see I'd like to share my life with you, show you things I've seen

.....A.....G.....
A...
Places that I'm going to, places where I've been

.....D.....G.....
D.....
To have you there beside me, never being home

.....G.....C.....
.....A.....
Cause all the time that you're with me, we will be at home

SOURCE: CHORDIE.COM

ATN BANGLA	Sanskriti Sangbad
11:10 Talk Show	Diganta TV
01:25 Pragok	Business Time Line
03:05 Bangla Feature Film	Karnaphul Teere
05:00 Gram Goner Khabor	Drama Serial: Chhaya
11:30 Drama Serial: Shikhandi	Chutok
Kotha	Time Light
09:25	Apun Khabor
12:05 Ebonj Cinemar Gaan	Bangla Feature Film
01:05 Bangla Feature Film	Drama Serial: Bondhuta
09:35 Hindoye Mani O Manush	Houseful
11:30 Fun Club Tournament	Rajneeti Baire
	Top of the Pop
RTV	
10:10 Dhruopadi Kahini	
12:35 Bangla Feature Film	
07:40 Thik Bolchen To	
09:50 Drama Serial: Dhan	
Shalik-er Gaon	
Jegey Achho Ki	
11:30	
ETV	
10:02 Dehghari	
01:30 Bangla Feature Film	
06:30 Vobo Gure Dot Com	

abcradio FM 89.2	06:00 Back to Back
06:00 Shorer Janaly	10:00 Back to Back
09:00 Mahonto Jibony	06:00 Back to Back
12:00 Dhan Bopony	06:00 Back to Back
03:00 Duranto Bileley	06:00 Back to Back
05:00 Shondhata	06:00 Back to Back
07:00 Shajer Hoya	06:00 Back to Back
09:00 Rak-er Akashy	06:00 Back to Back
11:00 Golper Shesh Nei	06:00 Back to Back
RADIO FOOTI	06:00 Back to Back
08:00 Adhobati	06:00 Back to Back
02:00 Footi Unlimited	06:00 Back to Back

Amar Ami On BANGLAVISION at 09:05pm
Celebrity Talk Show
Guest: Bashir Ahmed

Priyoneer Gaan On Desh TV at 03:00pm
Live Musical Programme
Band: Dolchut

Legend of the Fist: The Return of Chen Zhen On HBO at 09:30pm
Genre: Action/Drama
Cast: Donnie Yen, Alex Ahlstrom

07:50 Ottogar Ami	03:35 The Code
12:05 Ekushey-er Raat	07:00 The Expendables
01:05 Bangla Feature Film	08:30 The New Daughter
06:25 Front Line	
09:45 Drama Serial: Gubhan Avenue	
Cinemar Gaan	
12:25	
ntv	
08:45 Bangla Feature Film	
12:35 Japan Video Topic	
06:45 Tanika Mela	
09:00 Drama: Shuktara	
11:30 Viewers Hour	
Desh TV	
03:00 Priyoneer Gaan	
04:00 Desh Janapod	
06:30 Nupur Rejey Jai	
07:45 Amra Dujan Dekhte Kemon	
12:30 Total Sports	
Boishakhi TV	
02:30 Jhangkar	
06:20 Manush Manush-er Jemto	
08:45 Drama Serial: Tokhon Hemanta	
10:50 Nirapad Sarak Chai	
11:30 Boishakhi Bironodon O	

ATN BANGLA	ETV
08:00pm Bondhu Ebonj Ottoper	09:30pm Maina Todonti
08:40pm Putul Khela	BANGLAVISION
09:20pm Coming Soon	08:15pm Harkiprey
CHANNEL i	ntv
07:50pm Chaita Pagal	08:15pm Bondhu Amar
10:00pm Konyia Rupaboti	Desh TV
RTV	08:15pm Shopno bhuk
08:20pm Konkhabati	Boishakhi TV
09:05pm Olchopur	08:10pm Onno Shokal

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

ATN BANGLA	11:25pm Lal Gulp
12:30am Lead News	Desh TV
CHANNEL i	09:45pm Bela Dola
11:00am Anasor Ayana	12:30pm Shudaka
12:30pm Tanika Kothon	11:45pm Shoya Kotha
RTV	10:40am Tanaklap
10:10pm Gulp Shulp Gaan	ETV
10:10pm Gulp Shulp Gaan	12:00am Zoro Hour
BANGLAVISION	09:05pm Amar Ami
09:05pm	Maasranga Television
	07:30pm Prime Issue