

WHAT'S ON

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Colour of Time
Venue: The Institute of Art and Culture, Gulshan
Date: Sept 7-20
Time: 12pm-8pm

Musical Soiree
Featuring: Syed Abdul Hadi
Venue: Bengal Art and Culture, Gulshan
Date: Sept 15
Time: 6:30pm

Solo Tapestry Exhibition
Artist: Tajul Islam
Venue: Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Mirpur
Date: Sept 7-21
Time: 11am-7:30pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: REM
Artist: Ranjit Das
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60, Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1
Date: Sept 7-28

Group Art Exhibition
Title: 5th Friendship Art Exhibition
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: Sept 7-16
Time: 10am-7:30pm

Theatre
Play: Target Platoon
Troupe: National Theatre Repertory
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Sept 12-14

Group Drawing Exhibition
Title: Darw: Turning Thoughts into Lines
Venue: Athena Gallery, Progoti Shorani, Uttor Badda
Date: Sept 15-Oct 15
Time: 10am-7:30pm

Theatre
Play: Libaboti Akhyan
Troupe: Loko Natya Dal
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Sept 15
Time: 7pm

CLOSE UP 1 2012
Audition round begins with a bang



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After four years, the audition round of the much hyped musical talent hunt, 'Close Up 1 2012', began on September 9 at the Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC), Dhaka.

Mohammadpur Government Physical Training College was brimming with aspiring talents, numbering not less than 26,747, at the preliminary selection round that began on September 3.

The 72 candidates, who got the 'YES' cards in the preliminary round, faced the judges Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul, Fahmida Nahi and Partha Barua at BFDC.

The judges of preliminary selection include noted music composers Shujoe Shyam, Anup Bhattacharjee, Iqbal Ahmed, Anisur Rahman Tonu, Md. Shanewaz, and Partha Majumder among others.

"We are auditioning the young talents and I find it rather intriguing that most of the singers are rendering the melodious songs of yesteryears. It is often said that the young are gradually leaning towards western songs and are missing out on the songs of the golden era of the country. But this has so far proved wrong. We noticed that the first choice among the competitors is still music from that era. This is followed by folk songs ranging from Lalon and more. Songs of Bangladeshi bands are quite

MOTHERLAND BECKONS
Tajuddin and Syed Iqbal exhibition in Canada

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Promenade Gallery at Mississauga, Ontario has organised an art exhibition titled "Colour of Bengal" featuring the works of Toronto-based Bangladeshi artists Tajuddin Ahmed and Syed Iqbal.

The exhibition was inaugurated on August 30. The artists' last joint exhibition was held at Tivoli Art Gallery in Gulshan, Dhaka.

Bangladeshi educationist Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest. Charles Soussa, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (Canada); Jay Sarkar, president and chairman of Sartrex Corporation; Barrister Paltu Kumar Sikder and Councillor Jim Tovey were present as special guests on the occasion.

Asma A. Mahmood, director of the gallery, presided over the programme.

Both the artists have established individual styles and preferences in themes, but what connects them is their deep love for the motherland.

Tajuddin Ahmed began his career as a semi-abstract painter and his themes at the current exhibition include enigma in nature, nostalgia, expressions of emotions, and his beloved Old Dhaka. His acrylic paintings carry some of his personal traits like smooth ground, imposing colours and sensual lines. The painter is more concerned with managing space and forms. Some bizarre objects can also be found in his paintings.

Tajuddin grew up in Old Dhaka and the rapid changes in the city; socio-economic, political and cultural structures; architectural upgrade, common people and their way of life have tremendously impacted his work. His work highlights an interaction between object and space. The strength is brushstrokes that are bold at times and delicate at others. Space has been created on the canvas. Colours like red, blue, golden yellow and cobalt



Artworks on display.



Syed Iqbal (left) and Tajuddin Ahmed at the exhibition.

appear flatly in his works. The tonal plus linear approach gives his work a different quality and distinct look.

Syed Iqbal is a self-taught painter. He has illustrated many children's books. Most of his paintings delineate abstract forms where layers of colours mingle with unfamiliar forms. Some of his works are concept-based where he explores myths and folklore with references to Hindu deities such as Krishna, Kali and Durga.

Iqbal's canvas is a space where rich texture and thick colours join one another. His works feature a soothing blend of yellow, black, ash

and azure.

Darkness seems to be Iqbal's favourite subject. His use of darkness in his paintings is quite distinct. Depicting light on a certain space makes the paintings more alluring. He has used Roman alphabets to give the works a mysterious aspect.

The paintings at the show have been taken from both private and public collections, including the Bengal Foundation and the Bangladesh Foreign Office in Canada.

The exhibition will continue till September 13.

Maksud Jamil Mintu
Music maker

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Maksud Jamil Mintu, a renowned composer and music director, is recognised for his countless popular numbers. He won a National Film Award for the song "Ekta chhilo shonar konya" in the movie "Srabon Megher Din". The creator of many title songs and background scores for TV plays, Mintu continues his journey in the music arena full steam ahead.

The talented composer recently spoke to The Daily Star (TDS) on a

shot of issues.

TDS: What in your view are the major differences between the contemporary and past music scene?

Mintu: The main difference is in the recording process. Contemporary composers Habib and Balam follow the same pattern of tunes that we used to create in the past. But the latest creations are technologically richer. We didn't have technologically advanced studios back then, so producing quality sounds was tough. That is the major difference. Another change is the use of traditional instruments in folk songs. Such instruments were the primary devices in the past, with electric guitars and drums as supporting gears. But nowadays the same songs are being done with a western touch.

TDS: Songs from yesteryears used to find a firm place in listeners' minds. Why are new songs unable to achieve that?

Mintu: Many contemporary artistes are producing good music, but they lack the technical know-how. In the absence of quality sound, even a song by a good composer fails to attract attention. So the listeners forget the tunes easily.

TDS: What is the first thing that comes to your mind while creating a new song?

Mintu: At the beginning I contemplate the message the song will convey. Then I ponder how the music can complement the lyrics. I feel that once I read the lyrics, the tunes automatically come to me. This is how I create a song. The initial tunes are hardly ever changed in the later stages.

TDS: How did you become a composer?

Mintu: I played the guitar after my graduation in 1979. I went to BTV and played with Anisur Rahman



Tonu. Later, in 1982, I began working in movie playbacks with Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul. My first taste in film music was in "Megh Bijli Badol", where I played the guitar for the background score.

TDS: Later you also began composing and directing music for films?

Mintu: Yes, I first worked as a music director in Motin Rahman's "Agun Jalo". The movie featured the song "Elomelo Batashe", recorded by Baby Naznin. I also worked as composer and music director in several movies by Humayun Ahmed.

TDS: Why are you not a regular in the audio industry?

Mintu: I stopped working in the audio business because the producers

profited from our works but failed to recognise our talents. Although we were a key part of their business, we never received proper recognition. So I left the audio scene, only to return in 2009. I came back on a request from Asif Akbar. After a 19-year hiatus, I made an album for Subir Nandi titled, "Shonar Konya".

TDS: Tell us about your popular movie numbers.

Mintu: The movie "Srabon Megher Din" had tracks like "Ekta chhilo shonar konya", "Aaj amar Kushum ranir bibaho hoibo", "Ogo bhajibajon nao baowa" and "Amar bhangha ghore". I also worked on the music for the film "Dui Duwari". It featured "Mathae porechi shada cap" sung by Agun, and Selim Chowdhury's "Shohagpur graame ekta". I also composed the songs "O amar ural ponkhi re" and "Chandni poshor raite jeno" for the movie "Chandra Kotba". Subir Nandi and Selim Chowdhury recorded the songs respectively. I also composed and directed music for "Shyamol Chhaya".

TDS: You have also composed many title tracks for TV plays. Can you amplify on that?

Mintu: My first such experience was in the 1988 drama by Al Mansur, titled "Jekhane Dekhibe Chhai". I also made title tracks for Selim Al Deen's "Gronthik-gon Kohe" and Abdullah Al Mamun's "Shirsho Bindu". I received the most recognition for my theme music in Humayun Ahmed's "Kothao Keu Nei". Later, I went on to do the theme music for over 500 TV plays, which included Humayun Ahmed's "Aaj Robibar" and "Nokkhoter Raat".

Theatre festival honouring Lucky Enam ends



On the final day, National Theatre Repertory staged "Bideha".

PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD

JAMIL MAHMUD

The six-day theatre festival to celebrate the 60th birthday of veteran theatre actress and activist Lucky Enam, as well as her four decades in Bangladeshi theatre, ended on September 9 at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

The festival featured six plays directed by the actor-director, while a photo and poster exhibition, multimedia projection featuring Enam's works on television and a seminar were other highlights. Enam's troupe Nagarik Natyangan, that staged five of the six plays, organised the festival in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

On the final day, National Theatre Repertory staged its third and latest production "Bideha", an all-women play that highlights the agonies of the Biranganas and tries to narrate their plights to the young.

Young playwright Shahman Moishan's story follows Birangana Halima and Shantikumari (played by Lucky Enam and Momena Chowdhury respectively) who share their agonies with each other, as both have endured trauma and lifelong stigma. The production introduces another character, a young non-resident Bangladeshi who is a war child (played by Jyoti Sinha).

As "Bideha" narrates a shattered promise of the Liberation War, the organisers picked another play on the theme, "Sheishob Dingulo" -- a chronology glorifying the historic event. The Dr. Enamul Haq play narrates the wartime hardship of a middle class family and narrates the glory of a group of freedom fighters. The play was staged on the penultimate day.

Other staged plays showcased diversity of Lucky Enam's directorial approach and her troupe's commitment towards theatre activism.

While Arthur Miller's social satire "Pussy Cat and a Real Man" (which commenced the festival on September 4) fulfilled the quota of world classics, an adaptation of Manik Bandyopadhyay's intriguing story of love, rage and other human instincts "Pragaitihasik" showed the richness of Bangla literature.

Many would consider the play as the best of the festival and one of the best productions by the theatre troupe.

The festival also featured a Rabindranath Tagore adaptation "Muktit Upayee" and a Dipak Sen play "Sharoma".

An over 200-member committee consisting of almost all the recognised theatre personalities and activists was formed to arrange the festival. Veteran theatre personality and a friend of Enam, Ataur Rahman, was the convener of the committee.

Sylhet Divisional Boat Race held

A CORRESPONDENT

For the fourth consecutive time, Banglalink sponsored the Sylhet Divisional Boat Race, on the river Surma, on September 8. This is in line with a series of boating events Banglalink is promoting as an endeavour to uphold the tradition and culture of Bangladesh.

Sylhet divisional Krira Sangstha supported this event with Bangladesh Rowing Federation. The top three winning boats from this race have qualified to participate in the national championship that will be held in Dhaka. This has created a new level of enthusiasm among the rowers and local communities. People of all ages and communities came to enjoy the event.

Rivers form an integral part of Bangladesh's history, tradition, literature,



culture and sports. Boat race, is an important element of folk culture. To encourage boat racing nationwide, Bangladesh Rowing Federation was formed in 1974.

Among the many locally organised boat races, Sylhet Boat Race is often considered as one of the biggest events of this kind.

The boat race was inaugurated by the

Mayor of Sylhet City Corporation, Badaruddin Ahmed Kamran. Also present as special guests were Emran Ahmed, SME Manager, Sylhet and Shibby Sadiq, Assistant Manager of PR and Communication, from Banglalink; Emran Chowdhury, General Secretary and organizer Faizul Islam Ariz, of Sylhet divisional

Krira Sangstha and Abdul Awal Moju, General Secretary, Bangladesh Rowing Federation. At the end of the competition, the prizes were handed over by the chief guest and the special guests.

Senior Marketing Director of Banglalink, Shihab Ahmad said, "We have organised a number of boat racing events this year; this is because we recognise the boat as the symbol of all that Bangladeshi culture and tradition stands for. It brings together not just the rowers and sportsmen but thousands of spectators, making it an important aspect of communal bonding."

The winners of the race are: Sharengi Nouka Baich (Mourpankhi), Lulu, Khilpara, Kotalpur; Kosha Nouka Baich, Hanif Ali, Putamar, Companjanji; Chit Nouka Baich, Fatik Mia, Badeshor; Sharengi Nouka Baich (Gach Nooka), Sohul Ahmed, Jogonathpur, Shunamgonj.

Kim Ki-duk's Pieta wins Venice



PHOTO: REUTERS

REUTERS, Venice

South Korean movie "Pieta", an ultra-violent story of a loan shark confronted by a mysterious woman claiming to be his mother, scooped the Golden Lion award for best picture at the Venice film festival on Saturday.

The other big winner on the night was Paul Thomas Anderson's "The Master", loosely based on the early days of Scientology, which earned him a Silver Lion for best director and a joint best actor award for Philip Seymour Hoffman and Joaquin Phoenix.

Critics praised Pieta's visceral portrayal of a twisted story of love and revenge, difficult at times to watch but also absorbing and moving in equal measure.

Director Kim Ki-duk sang a traditional Korean song "Arirang" as part of his acceptance speech, and later told reporters: "This is a song that we Koreans sing when we are sad, when we feel alone, when we feel desperate, but also when we're happy."

Asked how he felt about receiving the award, he picked up the Golden Lion and kissed it.

Hoffman, playing a character based on Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard and Phoenix as his troubled, volatile protégé, were clear front runners for the acting

prize and both are expected to be in the frame when Oscar nominations are announced.

Hoffman rushed back to Italy to accept the awards on his own and his colleagues' behalf.

"I just got off a plane, like, five minutes ago, literally," he told the red carpet awards ceremony.

He went on to praise Phoenix, who was back to his best form in "The Master" after several years in the acting wilderness.

"Joaquin Phoenix is a life force in this film ... and I kind of rode that life force and that was my performance".

In examining the founding of the self-described religion of Scientology, Anderson tackled a topic many filmmakers would consider taboo.

He confirmed he had shown the film to Tom Cruise, a leading Scientologist, and said the two were "still friends". Austria's Ulrich Seidl picked up the Special Jury Prize runner-up award for "Paradies: Glaube" (Paradise: Faith). Hadas Yaron was named best actress for her performance in "Fill the Void". The screenplay award was won by Olivier Assayas of France for his 1970s political drama "Après Mai", and Italy's Daniele Cipri was named winner of the cinematography category for "E Stato Il Figlio".

Notable films that did not figure among the prizes included Terrence Malick's "To the Wonder".

VACUUM ON LOCAL STAGE
Jatra artiste Anwarul Gani Balbon passes away

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A highly popular face in local theatre and jatra pala, Anwarul Gani Balbon breathed his last at his residence here early on Friday at the age of 65.

Balbon was a member of Mymensingh Loko-kristi Sangstha, a cultural group of the town.

He left behind his wife, two daughters, a son and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death. He had been ailing from complications caused by blood cancer, for the last six months, family sources said.

Motaur Rahman, MP; former lawmaker Delwar Hossain Khan Dulu and cultural personalities in

and outside the town visited the residence of the late artiste to pay their respects.

Born in 1947 in Mymensingh town, Balbon, a dedicated drama and jatra artiste played different characters in more than 200 stage plays and jatra pala during his 45-year career.

He acted in many historical jatra pala, including "Nabab Siraj-ud-Dawla", "Bagdutta" and "Kohinoor". He also acted in several plays in and outside the district. Some of these plays were "Ekhone Mirzafar", "Khandito Boley", "Uchu Talar Manush", "Rastar Chhele", "Dayee Ke", "Palashtali Shanu", "Karagare Nazrul" and "Sagar Shecha Manik".

For his contribution, he was honoured by Mymensingh Theatre Association in 2005. Shahadat Hossain Khan Hilu, presidium member of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation and secretary of Bahurupi Natya Sangstha said that the death of Balbon would create a vacuum in the cultural arena of Mymensingh.

Ali Azhar, secretary of Bidrohi Natya Goshthi said, the drama artistes of this generation will surely miss the accompaniment of Balbon, an important figure in this field. The artiste will be remembered.

They also prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

Beetle Bailey by Mort Walker

Henry by Don Trachte

BTV	02:15 Bidhi Bidhan	11:45 Shoja Kotha
05:05 Moner Kotha	01:30 Business Time Line	
09:00 Drama Serial	04:30 World Round Up	
11:05 Probashi Bibon	06:00 Career Line	
	09:05 Chitra Bidhita	
ATN BANGLA		
10:10 Twenty-twenty		
Cricket (Live)		
05:15 Chitram Bangladesh	05:30 Amazing Animals	
09:20 Drama Serial: Poush	06:30 Binodan Sharadin	
Phaguner Pala	08:30 Twenty-twenty Cricket (Live)	
11:30 Drama Serial: Cafeteria		
CHANNEL 9		
08:45 Bangla Feature Film		
04:20 Amar Chhobi	06:00 Classic Cartoon	
06:00 Banglar Pothey	09:25 Purno Healthy Kitchen	
07:50 Shera Nachey	10:30 Drama Serial:	
11:30 Drama Serial: Roshni	Apon Apon Khela	
CHANNEL 24		
01:05 Musical Programme		
11:00 Rupmadhuri	03:05 Champarker Golpo	
04:10 Janar Achhey	08:05 Travel Show	
Bolar Achhey	10:15 Drama Serial: Jolchhobi	
06:45 Crime Watch		

Raaf Biratey On BANGLAVISION at 12:25pm
Street Show
Guest: Mahadev Saha

The Town On HBO at 12:15am
Genre: Crime/ Drama/Thriller
Cast: Ben Affleck, Rebecca Hall & Jon Hamm

Bhalobashi Musical Programme Featuring Imran & Nijhar

08:15 Drama Serial: Kagojer Bari	Gtv
09:00 Glamour World	11:30 Bangla Feature Film
ETV	08:05 Drama Serial: Bagha Sher
11:30 Kuchey-er Business	08:35 Bhalobashi Gaan
05:25 Binodoner Biswa	09:35 Straight Line
06:30 Desh Jury Shangleap	05:20 Fox Movies
07:50 Taal	07:00 Year One
08:20 Drama Serial: Ohongkar	07:00 Love & Other Drugs
	08:45 Love, Wedding and Marriage
Boishakhi TV	10:20 Tucker & Dale Vs Evil
12:15 The Business Show	11:00 Rio
04:15 Shorashori Doctor	
08:00 Drama Serial: Istikutim	
11:00 Reporters Dairy	
BANGLAVISION	
01:05 Bangla Feature Film	03:35 Rush Hour 3
05:20 Poriksha Prostuti	05:20 The School of Rock
06:30 Shoundarjo Kotha	07:30 Step Up 2: The Streets
11:25 Shourabha Raita	09:30 Captain America: The First Avenger
	12:15 The Town
Rtv	
12:35 Bangla Feature Film	03:35 Grey's Anatomy
09:05 Drama Serial: Boya Paribar	08:30 The Simpson's
09:50 Look at Me	09:30 Master Chef Australia
12:05 Business Talk	11:30 Two And A Half Men
Desh TV	
05:00 Gaan R Gaan	03:30 Secrets of Bin Lad en's Lair
05:00 Durpath	08:30 Death of Bin Laden
07:45 Drama Serial: Sat Kahon	

ATN BANGLA	08:40pm Jhukanta Babura	BANGLAVISION	08:15pm Bakulapurer Jati
CHANNEL 1	09:35pm Alice in Wonderland	Rtv	08:15pm Side Effect
ntv	09:45pm Ochena Protibombo	Desh TV	08:15pm Radio Chocolate
ETV	09:30pm Kamini	CHANNEL 9	08:40pm Bachelor the Family
Boishakhi TV	09:20pm Dignipath	CHANNEL 24	09:30pm Jadur Shahar

BTV	10:25pm Shomababonar Bangladesh	Boishakhi TV	12:00am Zoro Hour
CHANNEL 1	12:30pm Taruka Kothor	Rtv	11:30pm Our Democracy
ntv	12:00am Ei Shomoy	Desh TV	09:45pm Quichhi Tomar Bondhita
ETV	12:02am Kuchey-er Raat	Maaranga Television	12:02am Shampokti
Boishakhi TV		CHANNEL 24	12:00am Modhyratar Muktabak