

WHAT'S ON

Engraving Exhibition
Artist: Francisco Goya
Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dhanmondi
Date: Oct 1-23
Time: 12pm-8pm

Book Fair
Venue: Public Library
Premises, Shahbagh
Date: Oct 17-23
Time: 11am-6pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: 'Tranra & Time'
Artist: Ashraful Hasan
Venue: Galien Kaya, H-20, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara
Date: Oct 12-23
Time: 11am-7:30pm

Poetry Session
Participants: Ross Satterland and 10 young Bangladeshi poets
Venue: EMK Centre, Midas Centre, 5, 9th Floor, Rd 27, Dhanmondi
Date: Oct 20

Group Art Exhibition
Title: The Stillness of Life
Venue: Institute of Art and Culture R-1A, H-2, Gulshan-1
Date: Oct 1-30
Time: 11am-7:30pm

Art Exhibition
Title: Rivers of the World
Venue: Rabindra Sambar (Dharmond) Lake, R-7A, Dharmond
Date: Oct 14-19
Time: 10:30am-6pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Explains, Discover
Artist: Vanita Karim
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60, Gulshan Avenue, Cmc-1
Date: Oct 12-23
Time: 12-8pm

Photography Exhibition
Title: Victims of Employment
Venue: Dik Gallery, H-58, R-15A(New), Dharmond
Date: Oct 12-20
Time: 12pm-6pm

Surreal, humanist engravings by Goya
Art exhibition in Dhaka



TAKIR HOSSAIN
I first had the opportunity to see Francisco Goya's paintings at Prado Museum in Madrid. While touring the city, I also understood the public reverence for this old master when I saw his works (digital reproduction) on the walls of metro stations. Prado Museum preserves only his oil paintings. The colours of his paintings and figurative expressions are lively and easily draws visitors. His use of light is superb, creating an intimate atmosphere.

Artworks by Francisco Goya.

The artist painted the Spanish royal family. His themes extended from social and cultural festivals to scenes of war, cruelty, bullfight, debasement and more. He produced terrifying and brilliant artworks of insanity and fantasy. In a true sense, he was a socially and politically conscious painter. This is the first time Goya's artworks are being exhibited in Dhaka. These are engravings and from the collection of the Real Academia de Bellas Artes of San Fernando. His engravings disclose a diverse facet of his individuality that has established him as one of the best engravers of all time. Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, the Spanish Embassy in Bangladesh and the Indext Chair of Spanish Language and Culture, University of Dhaka, have jointly organised the exhibition at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. About 84 prints are on display at the exhibition. The collection includes works ranging from his first etchings, through which he mastered this difficult technique while interpreting Diego Velázquez, to pieces from his four great original series -- "Los Caprichos" (which depict the

views of Spanish society using metaphors rife with fantasy), "Los Desastres de la Guerra" (which demonstrates the uselessness of violence), "La Tauromaquia" (a refuge from his disappointment with an irrational society) and "Los Disparates" (depicting his legacy of surrealist freedom). The images from the series, "Los Caprichos", superbly describe Goya's extreme dislike for the customs of the nobility and clergy. The series portrays prejudices and unfairness in then Spanish society. The series also covers subjects like prostitution, child abuse, superstitions, politics and more. Black shades, meticulously drawn lines and detailed figures are noticeable traits in the series. Different motions of bulls during fights and the animals' powerful movements have been depicted in the series "La Tauromaquia". Bullfighting is one of the most known traditions of Spanish culture. The

prints are remarkable for thick lines and realistic scenes of surrounding activities. Goya portrayed different scenes from bullfight and featured celebrated bullfighters of the time. Most of the prints in the series are engraved with semi-shade of the background. These artworks are more vivacious, dynamic and detailed -- representing the artist's fondness for recording contemporary Spanish society rather than historical events. The "Los Disparates" series depicts the folly of mankind, ignorance inherent sight of human being. These etchings, produced between 1819 and 1824, are a bold satirical attack on the political and social customs of his time. The series also captures the legacy of the absolute freedom of his imagination. "Way of Flying", "Feminine Folly" and "Men in Sacks" are noteworthy works from the series. The artist's viewpoint towards life changed with the progression of time. The series includes

surrealistic works, which convey Goya's eccentricity. The series also reveals a world of fantasy and darkness, filled with images of fear, violence and sorrow. In "Los Desastres de la Guerra", Goya uses both symbolic and figurative language to criticise the political and religious rule. From the series "The Same", "It Always Happens", "This is the Worst of It" are notable works. The series remains a social chronicle with a strong anti-war message. The techniques used were etching, aquatint, dry point and burnin. The series depicts war in all its brutality -- deaths, the torture and the disastrous consequences. All of the engravings in the series demonstrate the universal cruelty of violence, and there are very few environmental or architectural clues that can be used to locate the scenes. The exhibition continues till October 22.

Demand for dissemination of Lalon's philosophy

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Speakers, including baul music exponents and baul singer, demanded the inclusion of Lalon's philosophy in the national curriculum and a separate discipline at the university level. They made the demand on the first day's discussion to observe the 122nd death anniversary of Fakir Lalon Shai at Chheuria, the den of the bard in Kushtia district, on Tuesday night. A five-day programme has been running there since Tuesday. Lalon Academy has organised the programme with the help of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. Banglalink is sponsoring the programme. Mahbulul Alam Hanif, joint general secretary of Bangladesh Awami League and also special assistant to the Prime Minister, inaugurated the programme and spoke on the occasion as chief guest. Khulna Divisional Commissioner Abdul Jalil chaired the opening programme. Among those who addressed the gathering were Kushtia Deputy Commissioner Banamali Bhoumik; Kushtia Police Superintendent Mofiz Uddin Ahmed; Kushtia District Awami League general secretary Asgor Ali and Khulna divisional regional commercial head of Banglalink Babul Haq. In his speech Hanif said that the different aspects of Lalon need more study and research as the bard placed humanity above all. "The present government is considering setting up a Rabindra University in Kushtia

where Lalon will be studied as a separate discipline," Hanif told the gathering. Many of the bauls and visitors were appreciative of the initiative. Fakir Enam Shah, a baul from Gazipur district said, "This will be a great initiative to disseminate the philosophy of Lalon throughout the nation." Professor Mohammad Badruzza, principal of Kushtia Government University College said that if the initiative gets underway, baul philosophy will get a great impetus across the world. "The demand for the inclusion of Lalon's philosophy in the national curriculum is not new. But no one has taken initiative. Now it is an urgent need of our time," said Professor Dr. Abul Hsan Choudhury, renowned folk researcher and Professor of Bangla at the Islamic University. As every year, a large number of people have gathered at the den of the bard. They are here for various reasons: to visit the historic place, to shop at the fair or simply listen to Lalon songs. Though it is a 24-hour event, the occasion gains momentum at night. Some foreigners have also come this time from different countries. Donald Ailo, a university graduate has come from Ireland. Ailo will stay all five days. Ailo discovered Lalon on the internet two years ago and made up his mind to visit Chheuria. This time, only local artists from Lalon Academy and Shilpakala Academy in the district are performing on stage.

Boat race in Habiganj haor

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Over 10,000 villagers, enjoyed a traditional boat race on the remote Baghata haor of Baniachang upazila in Habiganj district on Saturday last. The teams were from the district and adjacent Kishoreganj district. The 5-kilometre area turned festive. Cheering inhabitants on small boats from villages around arrived on both the banks. Beating drums with songs they added to the festivity. The racers of Bhati Baratia Juba Sangha of

Nikli upazila in Kishoreganj district were champions while Baratia Sangha was declared the runner-up in the keenly contested event. The local Baghata Juba Sangha team came in third. Baniachang Upazila Parishad chairman Iqbal Hossain Khan attended the event as chief guest while Kagapasha Union Parishad chairman chaired the prize giving function. Baghata Juba Sangha organised the traditional event. The chief guest said the boat race would be arranged regularly with the assistance of the government and local institutions.

Mimo: A blossoming career in showbiz

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Mimo beat thousands of candidates at the finishing post to be crowned as the 'Super Heroine' in the hugely popular reality show, 'Super Hero Super Heroine'. Since then, she has been a recurring face in the media -- acting in two films, working in numerous plays, along with many modelling gigs. As a student of English Literature, the talented Mimo also continues to focus on academics. Recently she spoke to The Daily Star about her thriving career.

Are you currently working on a new movie? Mimo: I started with films. My first film was FI Manik's "Ek Jobaan". For my second movie, I worked with Shakib Khan in "King Khan". After that, I shifted my focus to TV plays. After a long hiatus, I've returned to films with Shafuluddin Shafi's "Purno Doirgho Prem Kahini". What character do you play in the film? Mimo: I'm playing a very special character. You can say it is more of a cameo but its impact on the plot is very significant. It is a pivotal role, as it introduces a twist in the story. How busy are you before Eid? Mimo: My schedule is very hectic now. Thirteen TV plays featuring me were aired by different channels during the last Eid-ul-Fitr, while a dozen more will be aired this coming Eid. I've finished shooting for Ferdous Hasan's tele-film "Aaina Jaar Hridoy", Sabur Khan's play "Prem Prado", Sheikh Runa's play "Moner Akashey", Chayanika Chowdhury's "Shara Bela", Elahi Bappi's "Ek Jibone" and Mohon Khan's "Nayok Hotey Chai". I will also work in another play by Mohon Khan. All of these are just for Eid. ATN Bangla recently began airing a new serial featuring you... Mimo: Yes. It is called "DB", directed by Shahiduzzaman Selim. Only a handful of plays are made with a story like this. I'm getting a good response for my performance. I think the audience likes works that are out-of-the-box. What about the play "Bondhu Amar", being aired on ntv? Mimo: It just finished airing. It was directed by Ferdous Hasan. I played the role of Julekha, which I consider one of the best characters I've done so far in my career. Given your experience in TV and cinema, which sort of characters attracts you? Mimo: All kinds of characters are appealing to me. Honestly, I am yet to get my dream roles. I hope to play classic characters like Parboti or Bilashi. I often dream about playing such roles. You also took dancing lessons? Mimo: I learned dancing in Chittagong, and took lessons in modern dance after coming to Dhaka. I did a show on dance last Eid. I would like to work in more dance programmes if I get good offers, as dance is one of my favourite mediums.



Snake charmers brave danger Jhapan Khela in Magura district

HOSSAIN SERAI, Magura

Snake charmers braved venomous snakes in the 'Jhapan Khela', held at the premises of Sreekol Primary School in Sreepur upazila, under Magura district on October 14. Sreekol villagers under the banner of Sreekol Juba Sangha, in collaboration with Sreekol Union Parishad, organised the event that continued till evening. Several hundreds of people from adjoining villages thronged the venue. Eleven gutsy snake charmers from Jhenidah, Rajbari and Magura districts performed in the thrilling show. Of the eleven snake charmers, Rashidul Islam of Sreepur was adjudged first and Idris Ali Sarkar of Rajbari came in second while Khokon Sarkar of Jhenidah captured the third place in a contest.



PHOTO: STAR

Are You Listening! invited to Int'l Documentary Festival of Amsterdam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kamar Ahmad and Sara Afreen's documentary "Are You Listening!" ("Shuntey Ki Pao!") has been invited to the 25th edition of International Documentary Festival of Amsterdam (IDFA). The film has also been invited as the opener at the world's oldest documentary festival, Dok-Leipzig, in Germany. The film, featuring the everyday lives of people in a small village in the Sundarbans, has already won a number of awards and recognition from IDFA, Switzerland and Asian

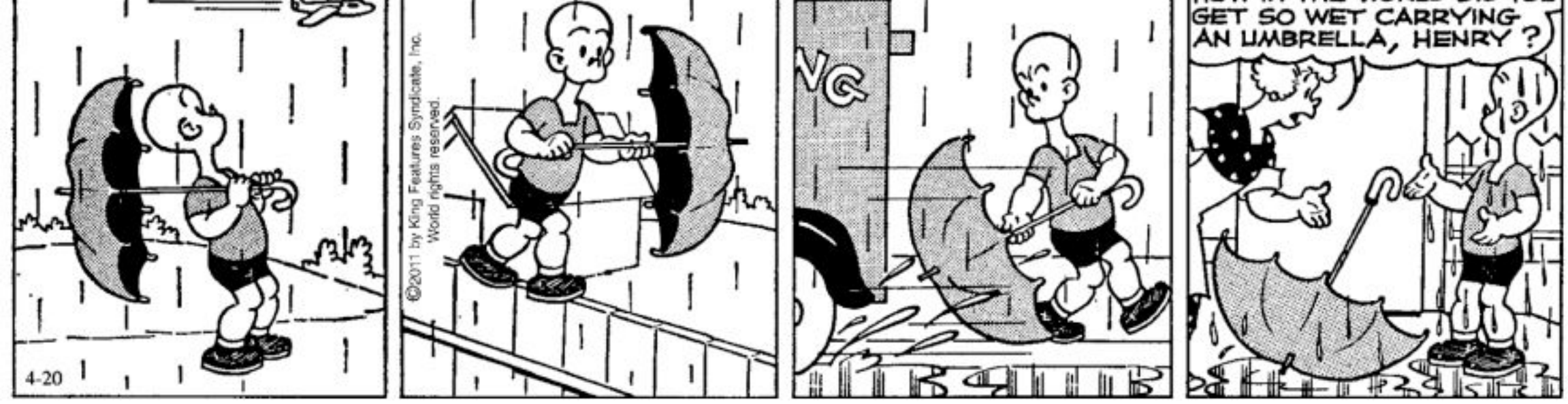


Film Forum for Documentary. Since its launch in 1988, IDFA has been dedicated to the screening and promotion of groundbreaking, creative documentaries. It has consistently served up the latest works of the world's leading documentary filmmakers. At present, it is the largest film festival of its kind. In reaction to a Bangladeshi film being invited to two of the festivals, filmmaker Morshedul Islam said, "It's a great moment of achievement for Bangladeshi film and of course the biggest one for documentary films. It indicates that the young filmmakers are going to usher in a new era for Bangladeshi films." The silver jubilee celebrations of IDFA will be held from November 14 to 25. Every year, around 1,20,000 people attend the 11 day-long festival. The programme consists of more than 300 titles selected from more than 3,300 submissions. Kamar and Sara will attend IDFA soon after attending Dok-Leipzig. At Dok-Leipzig, "Are You Listening!" will be screened as one of 12 selected films for the prestigious 'Main International Competition'.

Beetle Baily by Mort Walker



Henry by Don Trachte



Musical instrument makers have field day

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Musical instrument makers Suvash Chandra Das and his son Gopal Chandra Das are busy completing orders for dhak (huge drums) and dhol as Durga Puja draws nearer. Suvash Chandra, proprietor of Taal Taranga, a musical instrument workshop on Kalibari Road in the town, said, "Business this year is good and we are happy with the number of orders from different areas of the district and outside." "I have orders for some 30 dhaks -- from Mymensingh, Kishoreganj, Sherpur and Netrokona, and will soon supply them to my clients," he added. There are also similar orders for khol, tabla and dugi, and Suvash and his son Gopal are working round the clock to meet the demands. "The workers involved in this profession also enjoy a reasonably good income which was very difficult a few years ago," said Gopal adding, "now a worker can earn Taka 300-500 per day and generally the business runs round the year." The prices of hide, wood (neem and mango), brass, and other materials needed to make musical instruments, has increased manifold in recent years but the price of these instruments has also registered a reasonable increase. Now a dhak goes for Taka 6,000-7,000; a dhol at Taka 2,500-3,000; a khol at Taka 2,500-2,700 while a pair of table is priced at Taka 3,500-4,000. Narayan Chandra Das, a veteran musical instrument maker of the district, said, there are some 25 workshops for making such instrument in the district, including Mymensingh town and over 100 workers are involved in making rhythmic musical instruments. Now business is witnessing an upward trend, said Narayan who has been in this profession since his childhood, like his ancestors. "We are hoping for the return of the golden age of such instruments and if our dreams come true, many more workers will be inspired to stick to this profession," said Narayan with a broad smile.

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Artisans busy making dhol. PHOTO: STAR

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CELEBRATING LIFE 2012



Sabina Yasmin, Ajoy Chakrabarty, Kaushiki Desikan GALA NIGHT & Award Giving Ceremony 6:00 pm 2nd November (Friday), 2012 Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium, Mirpur Entry is free with card! Collect your entry card from The Daily Star Centre (11am-6pm) 64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215 Look for Zia Nazmul if any inquiries

Table with TV programmes: ATN BANGLA, Channel 9, Channel 24, ntv, ETV, etc.

Table with Radio programmes: abc radio FM 99.2, 100.0, 101.0, etc.



Table with TV programmes: Drama: Gontalya Jana, Boishakhi TV, BANGLAVISION, Rtv, Desh TV, etc.

Table with Drama Serial programmes: ATN BANGLA, Channel 9, Channel 24, ntv, ETV, etc.

Table with News Bulletin programmes: BTv, ATN BANGLA, Channel 9, Channel 24, ntv, ETV, etc.

Table with Talk Show programmes: BTv, ATN BANGLA, Channel 9, Channel 24, ntv, ETV, etc.