

WHAT'S ON

Bengal-ITC SRA Classical Music Fest
Organizers: Bengal Foundation & ITC-SRA
Venue: Army Stadium, Banani, Dhaka
Date: Nov 29-30

BENGAL-ITC SRA CLASSICAL MUSIC FESTIVAL 2012

Print Exhibition
Title: Chapai Chobi-1
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, R-16,
Sector 4, Uttara
Date: November 24-December 4
Time: 11am-7:30pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: In Search of Roots-2
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka
Date: November 24-30
Time: 10am-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Mike Woodcock
Venue: Institute of Art and Culture, Gulshan
Date: Nov 15-30
Time: 12pm-8pm

Rooted Creativity-11
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhamondi
Date: Nov 26-Dec 5
Time: 12pm-8pm

15th Asian Art Biennale
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Segunbagicha
Date: November 1-31
Time: 11am-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Sonagpon
Artist: Proshanta Karmakar Budha
Venue: Nordic Club, Gulshan-2
Date: Nov 21-27
Time: 9am-7pm

Solo Printing Exhibition
Title: Mindweb
Artist: Rejaul Karim
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-60, R-7A, Dhamondi
Date: November 22-29
Time: 3pm-8pm

Subhash Dutta . . . in images of intimacy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



"Shutrang," a solo photography exhibition featuring images by Salma Ahmed, is now on at Drik Gallery in Dhamondi. The photographs highlight some deeply personal moments in the life of the recently deceased eminent film director Subhash Dutta.

Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest, while Pijush Bandyopadhyay, director general of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC), 10 was present as special guest. Among others, film directors, producers and cultural personalities as well as Dutta's family members were present on the occasion.

Subhash Dutta was slated to inaugurate the exhibition but he died three days before the launch of the show.

Salma Ahmed, a private university teacher, has captured the images since 2007. The exhibition features around 200 photographs in 121 frames, including



For him, life was art ... and more.

A journey into mindweb Rejaul Karim holds a solo exhibition

SHAMSUL WARES

Rejaul Karim by nature is a serious painter. He is not attracted by the physical appearance of objects. The cognitive nature of his mind takes him deep inside a thing in order to dig out the meaning from its core. His paintings are evocative and thoughtful.

The artist's solo exhibition is now on at Dhaka Art Centre, Dhamondi, in the city.

Young Karim was a student of Mrittunjay High School at Mymensingh, where he did his SSC in 1963. Here he learnt that the great Master Zainul Abedin was also a student of the same school during the late 1920s and early 1930s. This knowledge in his childhood gave him an inexplicable sense of joy and he gradually began to feel somehow connected with the Master. Although he was very good in arithmetic, because of his love for nature and people he developed a passion for painting from his days at the school. Eventually he became an ardent student of Abedin at the art school in Dhaka and obtained his BFA degree in 1968. While he was a final year student in 1967, he exhibited more than 100 of his works (mostly drawings, water colours, wood cuts) at the Town Hall in Mymensingh, where Abedin wrote the foreword for the catalogue. At this exhibition his obsession with abstract expressionism was very evident.

As a student of fine arts, Karim's inclination towards science and humanism remained potent and soon after graduation he became a devout member of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB). His involvement with left-wing political ideals, although it took him away from a white from painting, gave him greater clarity of social vision and turned him into an essential seeker of the truth. As a result his paintings gradually moved from figurative expressionism to pure abstraction. But although his paintings are structured on the principles of pure abstraction, often illusory and deceptive figuration of human beings, animals, birds and objects are visible in the painted surface. This introduction of the obscure figuration and objectivity gives his paintings an emotive power and connects the spectator with our collective memory of different events and history, including that of the Liberation War of 1971.

Abstract paintings are cerebral, incapable of evoking emotion. Karim includes partial reality into his otherwise pure abstract paintings in order to infuse emotion. His semi-abstract paintings thus are the result of his intense personal emotion, the mindspace of his personal experience. This partial reality often creates a dreamlike atmosphere equivalent to that of surrealism into his paintings. Although Karim belongs to the Left school of thought, his paintings are never slogans for an exploitation free society. He has been able to take an artistic position where he is only accountable to himself. His paintings are not violent but intense.

Most of the 52 paintings of Karim showcased in this exhibition (his 9th solo) are made of acrylic on handmade paper or canvas. These paintings exhibit the extraordinary capability of Karim to create unique textural quality of the painted surface. In many of his paintings colour is used as rusticated stains in order to create an integration of colour and ground in which foreground and background cease to exist. This unique surface texture of his paintings is varied, sometimes compressed and heavy and sometimes loose and dispersed but always fathomless. These textured surfaces however predominate resemble the abstract forms of man-made built forms and nature. In paintings where there are layers of the textured surfaces, the lighter surface in the background is visible through the darker surface of the foreground. In these paintings light seems to emit from the background creating a sense of magic and transparency, depicting Karim's apparent a social optimism. In some of his paintings a few lines and dots of insignificant dimensions in the form of symbolic notations are used with great skill. These paintings not only evoke a primordial spatial experience but also connect the spectators with the primitive paintings of the cave.

Karim is a master of colour and texture. His colour scheme usually in warm pigments is inflicted with spots and patches of burnt sienna, dark red and gray, creating an aberrant sensation of magical ecstasy. His paintings are either completely spontaneous or disciplined by geometry. But at the end, the main thread of his paintings seems to carry spectators into his personal world of solitude.

The exhibition will continue till November 29.

The writer is an eminent architect and art critic.



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THEATRE ART UNIT FESTIVAL "Court Martial" sees 200th show

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Theatre Art Unit's critically acclaimed production "Court Martial" saw its 200th staging on November 23 at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The landmark show was held as part of the 10-day International Theatre Festival organised by the troupe to mark its 20th anniversary.

An adaptation of an Indian literary work, the play was initially directed by SM Solaiman. After Solaiman's demise the troupe discontinued the staging of the play. After a long hiatus, they brought the play back on stage with M. Bari as the new director.

Mohammad Bari, Selim Mahbub, Prashanta Halder, Chandan Reza and Ezad played the lead roles. Hemayet Hossain Tapan and Thandu Raihan are the set and light designers of the play.

On the other hand, Shannay Theatre from Chatmohar, Pabna staged its production "Go-Jatra" at the Experimental Theatre Hall. The troupe received SM Solaiman Motivation Award during the festival.

The 10-day festival ended yesterday.



PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD

Ziaul Haque to get Naren Biswas award '12

HOSSAN SERAI, Magura

the district town.

During his student days in Bongaon of West Bengal in India and Jessor Zilla School in the country, he got involved in cultural activities.

He was elected the general secretary and later the vice-president of Jessor Michael Modhusudan College Students' Union.

In 1952, he was sent to jail for his active participation in the Language Movement.

Khan Ziaul Haque won the Silver Tiger Award in 2005 (the highest award in Bangladesh for scouting).

He was also awarded the National Social Work Award in 1988 by the Ministry of Social Welfare and also Harish Dutta Natya Padak in 2002 by Udichi Shilpi Gosthi.

A retired headmaster and founder of many educational and socio-cultural institutions in Magura Ziaul Haque while talking to The Daily Star said, "In the twilight of my life, I want to see people dedicated to bringing about positive changes in my beloved country and transforming our society into a better place."

Khan Ziaul Haque will receive a medal at a function held in memory of "Bakshipuri" (elocutionist) Naren Biswas to mark his death anniversary at the Shawkat Osman Smriti auditorium in Dhaka on November 27.

Among the previous award recipients are renowned actor and reciter Golam Mustafa, elocutionist Nikhil Sen and president of Bangladesh Abriti Sammanoy Parishad, Asaduzzaman Noor.

A dedicated teacher and a committed socio-cultural activist Khan Ziaul Haque was born in 1928 at his ancestral village in the Bhaina area in



"Gulaab Gang" Madhuri and Karisma face off

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

film, "Gulaab Gang".

Times are changing. Way back in the 1990s, any film producer would have found it impossible to bring former Bollywood heartthrobs Madhuri Dixit and Juhi Chawla to share screen space, as late director Yash Chopra did in the 1990s when he made the hit film "Dil To Pagal Hai".

When the role played by Karina Kapoor in "Dil To Pagal Hai", also starring Shabir Khan, was offered to Juhi Chawla at the time, the latter declined as she was unsure how much screen space she would get with Madhuri who plays the main lead role in it. Call it professional rivalry, if you want to, but today, 15 years down the line, you will get a chance to see both in a different sort of face-off in filmmaker Anubhav Sinha's forthcoming



LATE AUTUMN FESTIVAL Nabanna Utsab-1419 held in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Nabanna Mela, food festival, cultural function, traditional games and discussion.

People from different walks of life came with their families to introduce the young to their cultural roots.

The discussion was presided over by Advocate Shanti Ranjan Chakraborty, president Barisal Mahashamshan Rokkha Committee, and addressed among others by Hiren Thakur, convener festival organising committee, Gazi Naimul Hossain Litu, local Ward Councilor, Gandhi Lal Boral, Binoy Krishna Halder, Sanuch Kumar Khan, community leaders.

The celebration included the

new harvest festival in an agricultural

country like Bangladesh cuts across communities, brings smiles to toiling farmers and brings together people from different walks of life at this festival. Food is a major attraction at the festival.

The speakers said the harvest festival is considered one of the most ancient festivals in the world.

This age-long tradition is slowly being revived much to the delight of rural people whose beliefs are deeply rooted in this ritual, they added.

Through the festival, city dwellers show their respect and gratitude for those who toil long hours in the face of crop failures, pestilence and soil erosion to provide sustenance for the nation.

Robi launches talent hunt initiative - Robi Shera Protibha

Mobile operator Robi Axiata Limited has launched a Talent Hunt Contest called "Robi Shera Protibha", says a press release. The contest aims to discover talented vocalists from all corners of Bangladesh.

Robi will be present himself in seven

divisional cities to take auditions at Khulna on November 24, Barisal on November 25, Sylhet on November 29, Chittagong on December 1, Rajshahi on December 4, Rangpur on December 6 and finally in Dhaka on December 8.

Those using a Robi connection can simply

dial 3333 to participate in this contest or log on to www.robitalents.com. A team of competent jury will sift through the submissions.

'Dallas' star Larry Hagman dies at 81

AFP, Los Angeles

amiable astronaut whose life is plagued by a beautiful blonde portrayed by Barbara Eden.

But it was not until 1977, when the soap opera "Dallas" came along, that his Hollywood career really took off.

"Dallas" told the story of a mega-rich Texas family, in which Hagman played the role of corrupt and unscrupulous millionaire J.R. Ewing, the man everyone loved to hate.

With his ever-present Stetson and a smile that hid constant scheming, J.R. powered the series that ran for an unprecedented 13 seasons from 1978 to 1991, becoming one of the highest-rated TV shows of all time whose popularity reached well beyond the US.

Hagman died late Friday afternoon at Medical City Dallas Hospital from complications from throat cancer, according to the statement.

No other details were given.

Hagman first became a TV star in 1965 in the comedy series "I Dream of Jeannie," in which he played an

versary of Texas declaring itself an independent republic, a short-lived status before it joined the United States.

In 1992, Hagman was diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver, which later developed into a cancerous

tumor.

In November 1996, the actor starred in "Dallas: JR Returns", a two-hour television movie for CBS television.

Hagman returned to his role as J.R. Ewing in TNT's continuation of "Dallas," which began in 2012, but his failing health made it difficult for him to continue.

His big screen roles included his portrayal of corrupt southern Governor Picker in Mike Nichols' political film "Primary Colors".

Hagman was born in Fort Worth, Texas on September 21, 1931.

For his performance as J.R. Ewing, Hagman was nominated for two Emmy Awards for outstanding lead actor in a Drama Series in 1980 and 1981, but did not win. He was also nominated for four Golden Globes between 1981 and 1985.

He lived and worked in Southern California. But since the series were

set in Dallas, Hagman's name became synonymous with Texas.

He hosted "Lone Star," an eight-part documentary series on the history of the state for PBS television, which aired in 1985 and was timed to celebrate the 150th anniversary

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