

WHAT'S ON

Bengal-ITC SRA Classical Music Fest
Organisers: Bengal Foundation & ITC-SRA
Venue: Army Stadium, Baran, Dhaka
Date: Nov 29-Dec 2

Print Exhibition
Title: Chapai Chobi-1
Venue: Gallery 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, Dhanomdi
Date: Nov 26-Dec 5
Time: 12pm-8pm

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

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Sonaggon
Artist: Proshanta Karmakar Buddha
Venue: Nordic Club, Gulshan-2
Date: Nov 21-Dec 17
Time: 5pm-7pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Senes-7, H 60, Rd 7A, Dhanomdi
Venue: Dhaka Art Center, Date: December 1-10
Time: 3-8pm

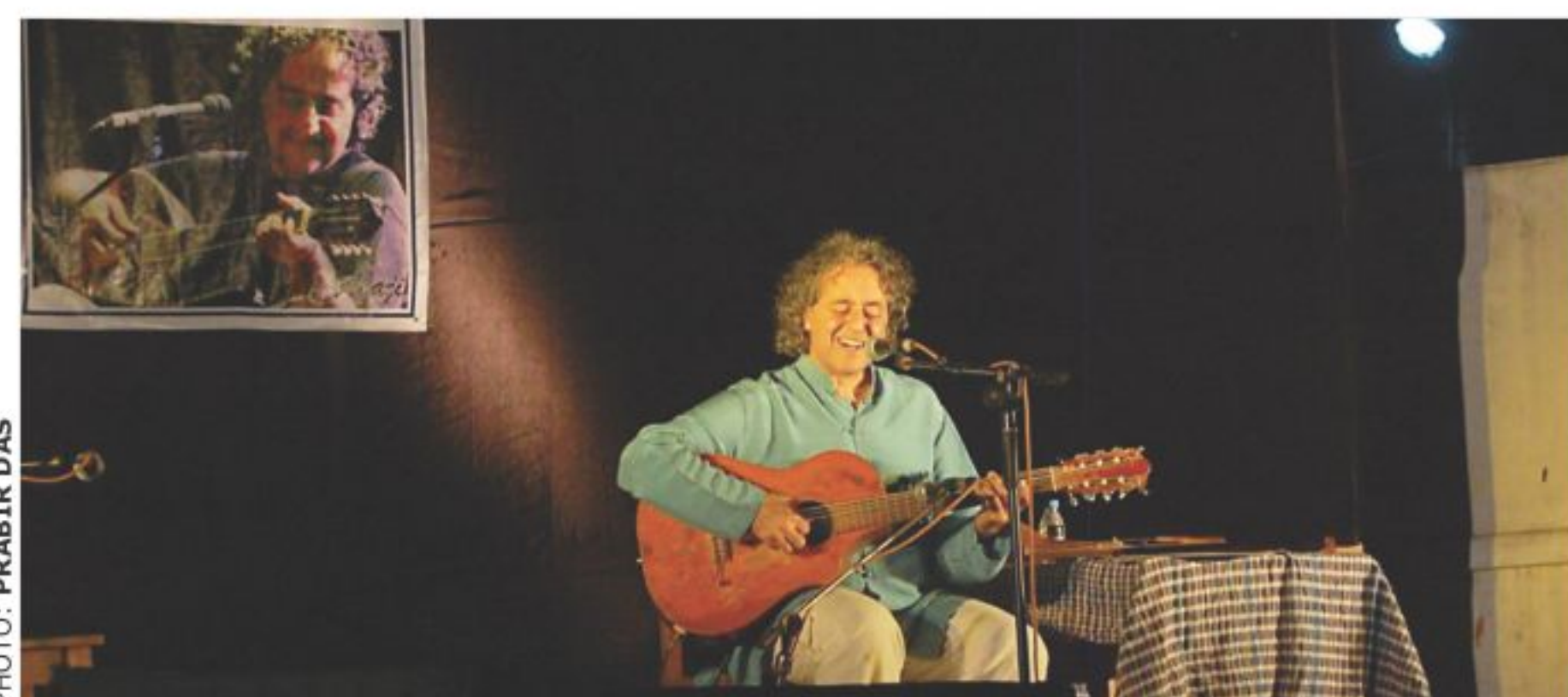
The launch of the English translation of Kazi Nazrul Islam's "Bandhonhara" (Unfettered), by the Reading Circle, was held on November 24, at Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel in Dhaka. Sponsored by Standard Chartered Bank, the book contains a tribute to Kazi Nazrul Islam by Jim McCabe, CEO of Standard Chartered Bank Bangladesh; a message from Khilkhi Kazi, granddaughter of the National Poet; foreword by Nazrul researcher and exponent Dr. Rafiqul Islam; and preface by writer and academic Dr. Niaz Zaman. "Bandhonhara" is an epistolary novel that is the first of its kind in Bengali literature. The Reading Circle took the initiative to translate this difficult literary work. The book has been published by Nymphaea Publication. Dr. Niaz Zaman is the editor of the book as well as one of the translators. Other translators are Tanveerul Haque, Asfa Hussain, Shirin Hasanat Islam, Ayesha Kabir, Jackie Kabir, Saeeda Karim Khan and Shahrukh Rahman.



The trans-continental music of Abaji

PRANABESHI CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

Lebanese-French multi-instrumentalist, singer and composer Abaji mesmerised music aficionados of the port city on Monday evening. It was the concluding session of a 12-day multi-disciplinary programme styled "Cross Perspective", arranged by Alliance Francaise de Chittagong at the open stage of Shilpakala Academy, Chittagong, in association with Asian University of Woman (AUW). Music enthusiasts, mostly youngsters and university students, who congregated at the premises, were in for an exceptional musical evening featuring a variety of tunes and rhythms on percussions and other instruments. Dr Samuel Berthet, director of Alliance Francaise de Chittagong, welcomed the audience and gave a short sketch of Abaji's



Abaji has turned himself into a global one-man band by developing his own style of singing and playing multiple instruments.

berthet Also described the background and purpose of the programme. Abaji, then, took centre stage and began his first performance on the flute. The tune of the flute and the movement of fingers on the instrument, alongside the expressions

of the artist helped the audience to understand the urge of the music. And the truth was revealed when Abaji spoke on the microphone, "friends", with the bits of the tune. From the audience side the prompt feedback came -- "friends"! After the first performance, the artist took his guitar and performed a mind-blowing piece composed on the theme "change", followed by another piece on bouzouki, an ancient Greek instrument with the sweet jingles of anklets, knotted around his legs. Abaji, who has turned himself into a global one-man band by developing his own style of singing and playing percussions -- inspired by oriental, Indian music and blues -- performed a Turkish piece in six and eight bits in French style using chirp. The next few performances, using the sound of claps with the rhythm of the instrument of the artist, were very interactive. Later, the artist successively performed Moroccan and Turkish rhythms, blending traditional blues, using different kinds of vocal sounds followed by playing a pipe that was used in ancient Greece around 3,000 years back and a South American saxophone.

The Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh, in cooperation with the Alliance Française de Chittagong, is organising a Swiss Film Festival on November 28-29 in the port city. Four Swiss feature films will be presented at the Alliance Française auditorium in Panchlaish, says a press release. The Ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh, Dr. Urs Herren, will inaugurate the film festival today at 6:15 pm. The film festival is part of a series of events being organised by the Embassy of Switzerland to celebrate 40 years of Switzerland-Bangladesh bilateral relations. The festival intends to present Swiss films to the well-informed audience of Chittagong. Earlier in March, a Swiss Film Festival was held in Dhaka. The opening film of the festival, "Henry Dunant -- du Rouge sur la Croix" ("Henry Dunant -- Red on the Cross"), depicts the struggle for peace led by Henry Dunant, the founder of Red Cross and Red Crescent movements. The film will be screened today at 6:30 pm.

On the second day (November 29) of the film festival, three Swiss films will be screened. "Madly in Love" is the story of a young Tamil, raised in Switzerland, who falls madly in love with a Swiss woman just days before her traditional wedding arranged by his father. The third movie of the festival, "Die Schweizermacher" ("The Swissmakers"), is a satire portraying the lives of two Swiss policemen who are entrusted with the delicate task of inspecting foreigners who apply for Swiss citizenship. In "Tandoori Love", the concluding movie of the festival, Sonja, a waitress who is engaged to her boss Markus, falls in love with an Indian chef named Rajah and faces the difficult task of choosing between marriage and adventure. "Madly in Love", "The Swissmakers", and "Tandoori Love" will be screened on November 29 respectively at 2 pm, 4 pm and 6 pm at the Alliance Française auditorium in Chittagong. The film festival is open for all; no entry pass is required.

Chittagong celebrates 150th birth anniversary of Dwijendra Lal Roy

SHAHENOOR AKTHER, Chittagong

To celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of poet Dwijendra Lal Roy, Bodhon (an organisation of elocutionists in the port city) hosted a cultural programme at DC Hill premises last Monday. Raktakarabi and Sangeet Bhaban, two local music institutions, presented choruses while Shila Momen, director of Raktakarabi; Kabari Sen Gupta from Sangeet Bhaban; and guest artistes from West Bengal (India) Nupur Chhanda Ghosh, Shomma Pal and Shudarsana Basu Ganguly sang solo at the programme.

Torun Chakraborty led his troupe, School of Folk Dance, in presenting several lively and entertaining dance performances. Elocutionists of Bodhon -- Indira Chowdhury, Prabir Pal and Pranab Chowdhury -- recited poems of Dwijendra Lal Roy. The highlight of the evening was performances by a cultural troupe from Kolkata, India. Apart from songs of Dwijendra Lal Roy they captivated the audience with songs of two other iconic poets Rajani Kanta Sen and Anul Prasad Sen. The programme was emceed by Javed Hossain and Sharmim Mritika. Earlier, in a discussion on the life and works of Dwijendra Lal Roy,

social researcher and Vice Chancellor of Premier University, Dr. Anupom Sen said, "Dwijendra Lal was not only a poet but also a great musician of his time." "In his play 'Shahjahan', he described the history of the Mughals impeccably," he added. Poet and journalist Abul Momen said, "He is still famous for his songs and even after 100 years, his songs are easily appreciated by music lovers." Indian Assistant High Commissioner in Chittagong, Somnath Ghosh, inaugurated the programme. Professor Rita Dutta and president of Bodhon, Ranajit Rakshit, also spoke on the occasion.



Members of Raktakarabi during a performance.

New Jimi Hendrix album to be released

Twelve previously unreleased Jimi Hendrix tracks are to be released on a new album next year. The late musician's website revealed the songs on People, Hell and Angels were recorded in 1968 and 1969. It is thought Hendrix had intended them for First Rays of the New Rising Sun, his follow-up to Electric Ladyland, which he was working on when he died. The album is due to be released in the US on 5 March, although a UK release date has yet to be set. Hendrix's website said the tracks suggest "new, experimental directions", as he worked on material separate from the Jimi Hendrix Experience. It added he explored "fresh diversions from his legendary guitar work", trying out horns, keyboards, percussion and a second guitar. Rolling Stone magazine revealed the album's cover artwork on last Wednesday. Hendrix is also about to hit cinemas around the world, with his set from the 1969 Woodstock festival released last month. It will be screened at more than 30 cinemas across the UK from 29 November to celebrate 70 years since the musician's birth. The reassembled archive footage captures Hendrix premiering a new band and performing tracks such as Voodoo Child (Slight Return), Fire, Purple Haze and a rendition of Star Spangled Banner.

SOURCE: BBC

DHAKA UNIVERSITY CENTRAL THEATRE FEST

A diverse range of plays



"The Lesson" is a psychoanalytical play by Eugene Ionesco.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 7th Dhaka University Annual Theatre Festival is in its sixth day today. Arranged by the university authority and managed by the Department of Theatre, the fortnight-long festival features plays produced, performed and directed by the students and teachers of the department. Several world classics as well as works of noted local playwrights such as Munier Chowdhury and Abdullah Al Mamun are being staged at the TSC Auditorium, the festival venue. On the fourth day (November 26), two plays were staged, Abdullah Al Mamun's monodrama "Kokilara" was staged first. Directed by Silvia Nawrin, the play saw Faharia Khan as the protagonist. "Kokilara" is a monologue of a girl, who arrives in the city from a remote area and comes face to face with the hardships of living in an urban area. Kokila is abused by her landlord and shunned by the society. Eugene Ionesco's psychoanalytical play "The Lesson" was staged later. Directed by Camellia

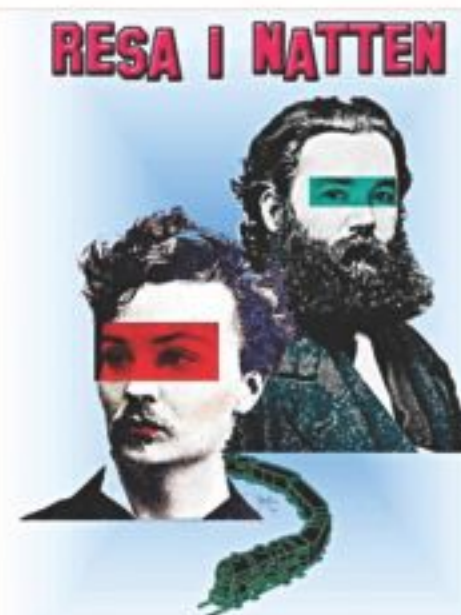
Moushumi Khan, the play featured Shah Mahmudur Rahman, Kaniz Fatima and Oisharja Azad as actors. The play takes place in an office and a dining room of a small French flat. A middle-aged Professor is expecting a new student. The Professor's maid worries about his health. The student (a beautiful young woman) arrives, and an absurd and nonsensical lesson progresses. The Professor grows angrier with the student's ignorance, and she in turn becomes quieter. At the climax of the play, the student is stabbed and murdered by the Professor. The festival, inaugurated on November 23 through the staging of Buddhadev Basu's "Prothom Parbo", also saw staging of four more plays over the last couple of days. The shows included Western classics such as Harold Pinter's "One for the Road" and Franc O'Connor's "My Oedipus Complex" as well as staging of two local plays -- Munier Chowdhury's "Military" and Badal Sircar's "Bagh". Today George Bernard Shaw's "The Dark Lady of the Sonnets" will be staged.

Homage to 'Shakespeare of Scandinavia'

ANISUR RAHMAN, from Oslo

Norwegian capital Oslo recently observed the 100th death anniversary of Swedish playwright August Strindberg, who is considered to be the 'Shakespeare of Scandinavia'. Voksenaasen Conference and Cultural Centre in collaboration with Norwegian-Swedish Association and Swedish Embassy in Oslo paid tribute to the 'father of modern Swedish literature' through programmes. The programmes included exhibitions of original photographs taken by Strindberg, glass art show based on concepts from Strindberg's works, performance of his "Dream Play" and discussion on his life and works. Ingrid Hjelt af Trolle, Swedish Ambassador in Norway, inaugurated the programme. Karl Einar Ellingsen, John Y. Jones from Voksenaasen, artist Kosta Boda, Kjell Engman

and Dick Johansson from Klassbols spoke at the opening. I was invited to talk about the play "Resa i natten" (Night Journey), a production based on the life and works of Strindberg and Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen. The play has been produced by Gottsunda Dans & Teater in Sweden. Two Norwegian theatre artistes Helena Klaren and Morten Jostad performed in Strindberg's



"Dream Play".

Strindberg biographer from Oslo University, Sten-Olof Ullstrom, talked about historical references in Strindberg's dramatic works. Strindberg was born in 1849 and died in 1912. He had written 61 plays, 10000 letters in 22 volumes, three collections of poems and 30 volumes of fiction and prose.

Anisur Rahman, a poet and playwright from Bangladesh, lives in Uppsala, Sweden.

Beetle Baily
by Mort Walker
HENRY
by Don Trachte

BTV	11:30 Anandadharma	03:00 Gaan R Gaan	Desh TV	03:00 Gaan R Gaan
	05:05 Jatiyo Television Bitarok	05:00 Durpurah		05:00 Durpurah
	08:40 Drama Serial: Nona Joler	06:30 Durer Janala		06:30 Durer Janala
	Kabho	07:45 Drama Serial: Saatkahon		
	10:50 Gaan-er Jhormatalay			
ATN BANGLA	06:15 Kothamala	11:30 Chitra Bichitra	Diganta TV	11:30 Chitra Bichitra
	08:40 Destination Unlimited	06:30 Rang Rup		06:30 Rang Rup
	10:55 Biboker Kache Proshno	09:35 Drama Serial: Shimabobhho Manusherha		09:35 Drama Serial: Shimabobhho Manusherha
CHANNEL i	11:05 Sherakontha	12:30 Probashe Bangladesh	Maasranga Television	12:30 Probashe Bangladesh
	03:05 Tele-film	08:00 Drama Serial: Kobiraj		08:00 Drama Serial: Kobiraj
	06:00 Ashalata	08:00 Golapghar		08:00 Golapghar
	09:45 Drama Serial: Boeing 757	09:30 Harti Jiti Nahi Lai		09:30 Harti Jiti Nahi Lai
ntv		11:00 Music Digest		11:00 Music Digest
	11:00 Biz Time		CHANNEL 9	
	04:10 Janar Achhey Bolaar Achhey		09:00 Test Match (Live)	

Power Voice
On CHANNEL 9 at 09:00pm
Musical Talent Hunt
Judges: Sabir Nandi, Moushumi & Imon Shaha

Limitless
On Fox Movies at 07:00pm
Genre: Mystery/Thriller
Cast: Bradley Cooper, Anna Friel & Abbie Cornish

Nacho Bangladesh
Nacho On Banglavisoin at 09:05pm
Dance Reality Show
Judges: Shibli Mohammad, Farzana Riya & Ferdous

08:15 Roshuighar	06:30 Money Hour
11:30 Drama Serial: Chowdhury Villa	09:00 Power Voice
	10:30 Drama Serial: Nishigandha
ETV	
11:30 Ekushey-er Business	03:05 Drama Serial: Jadur
07:50 Fashion and Tune	08:10 Shahar
08:20 Drama Serial: Bhomradah College	08:10 Music Village
10:10 Dvao-drama: Charge Sheet Report	09:30 Drama Serial: Paa Rokhechhi Jodone
Boishakh TV	
09:10 Bangla Feature Film	04:30 Guliver's Travels
04:00 Shorochi Doctor	07:30 Limitless
05:30 Dance Programme	08:45 X-Men First Class
08:00 Drama Serial: Bombairi Chhoti Bou	11:00 Margiri Call
BANGLAVISION	
01:05 Bangla Feature Film	07:30 Fox Movies
06:25 Front Line	04:30 Limitless
09:05 Nacho Bangladesh Nacho Music Club	08:45 X-Men First Class
11:25	11:00 Margiri Call
Rtv	
12:35 Bangla Feature Film	05:55 Final Destination 5
07:40 Drama Serial: Bhim Roti	07:40 Event Horizon
09:05 Drama Serial: Boyra Paribar	09:30 Ashury English Reborn
09:50 Lucky Line	11:40 Green Lantern
	Star World
	02:30 Grey's Anatomy
	04:30 Alcatraz

ATN BANGLA	BANGLAVISION
01:00am To To Company	08:15pm Generation Next Dot
11:30pm Roshni	Rtv
09:45pm Shummo Shumikaran	08:15pm The Side Effect
09:30pm Kamini	08:30pm Radio Chocolate
09:20pm Ognipath	08:40pm Khonikaly
	08:15pm Nagark

BTV	News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 9pm, 10pm, 11pm	Boishakh TV	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 5pm, 9pm, 10am, 11pm
ATN BANGLA	News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm, 11pm	BANGLAVISION	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 11pm, 5pm, 9pm, 11pm
CHANNEL 9	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm	Rtv	News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm
ntv	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm	Desh TV	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm
ETV	News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm	Maasranga Television	News (Bangla) at 7pm, 1am

ATN BANGLA	11:00pm Reporters Dairy
01:00am Onno Drishti	12:00am Zero Hour
12:30pm Taraka Kathon	Rtv
12:30am Ei Shomoy	10:40am Tarokalap
12:55am Ekushey-er Raat	Desh TV
Boishakh TV	11:00pm Shuja Khatun
	11:00pm Maasranga Television
	12:02am Shamporkat
	12:05am Modhyastee Muktabak