

**WHAT'S ON**

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Sonargaon  
Artist: Proshanta Karmakar Buddha  
Venue: Nordic Club, Gulshan-2  
Date: Nov 21-Dec 17  
Time: 9am-6pm

**Photography Exhibition**  
Title: Bangladesh - The Price of Freedom  
Photographer: Raghu Rai  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpakala, H-42, R-16, Dhamondi  
Date: December 7-16

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

**Int'l Short Film Fest**  
Organiser: Bangladesh Short Film Forum  
Venue: Central Public Library, Shahbagh  
Date: December 13-19

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Md. Rezhu  
Title: The Making of a Star-2  
Venue: Radius Art Gallery, Gulshan  
Date: Nov 30-Jan 15

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Kalidas Karmakar  
Title: Aluvial Faces and Diary  
Venue: Institute of Art and Culture, Gulshan  
Date: Dec 1-20  
Time: 10am-8pm

**Photography Exhibition**  
Title: Touch the Sky  
Photographer: MA Mohin  
Venue: Drik Gallery, H-8, Rd 15A, Dhamondi  
Date: December 7-14  
Time: 12-8pm

**Victory Festival 2012**  
Organiser: Sammito  
Shangrakot Jatra  
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar, Dhaka  
Date: Dec 14-16; Time: 4pm



Labelled the "Godfather of World Music", Pandit Ravi Shankar undertook an extraordinary journey from the banks of Ganges to the heart of the West, enthraling audiences in the USSR, Japan and North America.

However, it was his association with Harrison that got him international stardom. In the 1970s, they collaborated on two albums and toured the United States together.

A

darling of the hippie movement in the 1960s, Pandit Shankar trained for seven years under Ustad Allauddin Khan and was known for his characteristic sitar sound with powerful bass notes.

Shankar, 92, whose health had been fragile for the past several years, died on December 11 (Tuesday) at the Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla, California after undergoing heart-valve replacement surgery.

The

Bharat Ratna started as a dancer with the group of his brother Uday Shankar but gave it up in 1938 to learn sitar under Ustad Allauddin Khan.

During

the tour of Uday's dance group in Europe and America in the early to mid-1930s, Shankar discovered Western classical music, jazz, and cinema, and became acquainted with Western customs.

The

music doyen composed his first raga in 1945 and embarked on a prolific recording career. In the 1950s and 1960s, he became the unofficial

international ambassador for Indian music, enthraling audiences in the USSR, Japan and North America.

distressed by the situation and consulted Harrison

regarding means of providing help. He asked

Harrison's

advice

regarding

a fundraising

concert

in the

United

States.

In

the

1940s

His

daughter

Anoushka

was

born

in

1981

and

her

other

daughter

Norah

Jones

was

born

in

1981

and

she

is

now

31

years

old.

Pandit Ravi Shankar (C) with daughters Anoushka (L) and Norah Jones.

He was unique and was a blessed soul."

Eminent santoor player Shivkumar Sharma recalled, "I met him in my home town Jammu, where he had come to perform. Those days I used to play tabla and I had accompanied him on it. From then onwards, a long association started. He was very fond of my santoor too. There are very few musicians who could be called as legends of Indian classical music."

Flautist Hariprasad Chaurasia said, "I started crying when I heard the news. I am still learning music under Annapurna Devi, Shankar's first wife. I was also associated with Allauddin Khan, who taught Shankar as well. We did 55 concerts together. I remember each and every moment spent with him."

Kathak exponent Pandit Birju Maharaj said, "He was the king of tunes and we have lost a big star. There are a lot of memories attached to him. I used to play tabla with him at his Feroze Shah house. His blessings were always with me."

Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar said, "He was like the lord for us. We used to talk about everything. The classical sun of India has set and darkness has come over. There is no artiste who spread Indian music this rapidly across the world.

Compiled by Correspondent

## Nadia Samdani: Tastemaker for Saffronart



Saffronart -- the largest online auction house in South Asia with a global presence in India, UK and USA -- has launched a 'tastemaker' sale recently, with Nadia Samdani as their first tastemaker under a new initiative called 'The Story', according to a press release.

The auction house has rounded up six specialists like Charu Sachdev of TSG; Faiza Seth of Casa Forma; Simran Lal of Good Earth; Rajeev Samant of Sula Wines; art critic Girish Shahane; and Nadia Samdani to curate some of these collections.

Samdani, who is well known for her international art collection and her passion to promote the contemporary artists from Bangladesh like Tahera Begum Lipi and Ayesha Sultana. The collection includes a set of Raku ceramic teapots and bowls that can be exhibited or used functionally -- made exclusively by artist Ashim Halder Sagar for Samdani. There are also two Jamdani saris and two saris by renowned Bangladeshi designer Rina Latif. The collection also reflects Samdani's interest in international art and craft by including a set of jewellery by Trifari, a French pendant necklace and a set of jewellery designed by Shahia Karim.

## Group photo exhibition Cascading Dreams at Drik Gallery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-day group photo exhibition, titled "Cascading Dreams", was held at the Drik Gallery in Dhanmondi, Dhaka from December 9 to 12. The exhibition was organised by WaterAid, in association with Shriree. It featured stories of people at the grassroots level, their struggles and successes, dreams and realities, joys and sorrows, dignity and empowerment -- in relation to water, sanitation, hygiene (WaSH) and poverty alleviation.

Works of 13 photographers, including some recognised names in the field, were on display. Among them were internationally known photographers Abir Abdullah, GMB Akash and Munem Wasif.

Other participating photographers are Anisur Rahman, ASM Shafiqur Rahman, Barhanuddin Talukder, Habibul Haque, Juthika Hawlader, Khaled Ahmed, Saikat Majumder, Charlie Bibby, Brent Stirton and Tareq Salahuddin.

In total, the exhibition featured 60 photos.

The photographers tried to reveal the miseries of marginalised people, trying to overcome the existing hurdles in their lives. The photos also showed how successes in access to water, sanitation and hygiene can contribute to reduce extreme poverty in different parts of the country.

Works by acclaimed photographers -- Abir Abdullah, GMB Akash and Munem Wasif -- were aesthetically brilliant and aptly conveyed the messages.

Akash's photos "A Ray of Hope", "Fighting with the Nature", "Trapped in WaSH Poverty" and "Fresh Water -- a Blessing" depicted people who suffered once with polluted water. Their relatively better off condition after having access to fresh water was also showcased.

Wasif's works "Towing Water Down from Miles", "Life Goes On", "Keep the Water Moving" and "Towing Water Down from Home" narrate the hardship of people living in remote areas. Collecting water from distant places get the focus in these photos.

The exhibition featured photos taken not only by professional photographers but also amateurs. Tareq Salahuddin, a public health professional and development worker, captured moments from lives that illustrate stories of child marriage and its consequences, the unwillingness to accept and negative treatment of girl children in a family, and abandoned mother with offspring.

A book [collection of exhibited photographs] was launched at the event.

Photographs by Munem Wasif (top) and GMB Akash.

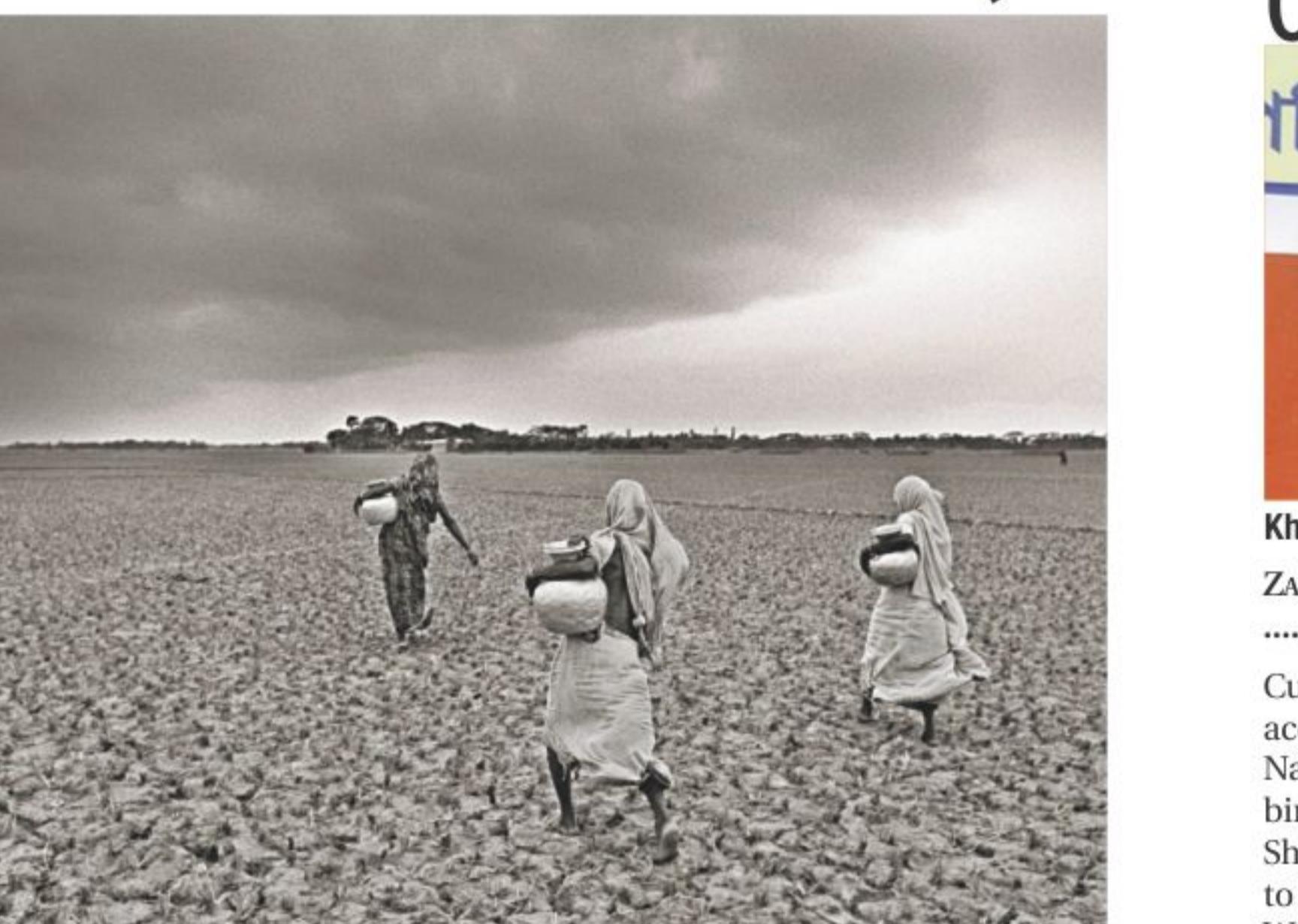
by Mort Walker

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Henry

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by Don Trachte



## Reception for family members of Nazrul



Khilkil Kazi performs at the programme.

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

Cultural organisations of Manikganj recently accorded a reception to the family members of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam at Twesta, the birthplace of the poet's wife Promila Debi, under Shivalaya upazila. They also accorded a reception to the members of Churulia Nazrul Academy in West Bengal.

Nazrul-Promila Parishad and Nazrul-Promila Shangskritik Goshthi arranged the reception at Twesta Jamindar Bari for the family members of the poet -- Khilkil Kazi, Kazi Nadira, Farzana Runa, Kazi Ahnaf Islam Arien, Kazi Ajobdul Islam Aiat, and Kazi Mozahar Hossain, general secretary of Churulia Nazrul Academy in West Bengal.

Anwar Hossain Badal, chairman of Twesta Union Parishad, presided over the function where Nazrul researchers Anupam Hayat and Professor Rafiqul Islam; Mohammad Asad, general secretary of Nazrul-Promila Parishad and Nazrul researcher; Ali Akbar, former chairman of Shivalaya upazila Parishad; poet Motiara Chowdhury Mitu; Professor Abdul Mannan; Dr. Mukadir; Rezaul Karim, officer in charge (OC) of Shivalaya Police Station; and Abdul Quddus, general secretary of Shivalaya Upazila Awami League, addressed the gathering.

Khilkil Kazi and local artists rendered songs and recited poems after the reception.

Earlier, the family members of the poet and members of Churulia Nazrul

Academy in West Bengal, paid homage to Kazi Nazrul Islam and his wife Promila by placing floral wreaths on their portraits.

## Murtaja Baseer Powerhouse of talent

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Murtaja Baseer is considered one of the leading painters of Bangladesh who has established a unique style. Like his father, noted linguist and educationist Dr. Mohammad Shahidullah, Baseer is a powerhouse of talent.

The veteran painter shared his experience of and views on the Liberation War.

In 1971, Baseer escaped to Paris with his family, fearing arrest for his involvement in the independence movement. "After reaching Paris, I was shocked at the news of Dhaka's dreadful situation," Baseer said.

It was during Baseer's stay in Paris that the "Epitaph for the Martyrs" series was done, inspired by the colours and unfamiliar forms enmeshed in stones that he found on a Parisian street.

Baseer said, "I think that we fought for independence, but we could not reach the goal of liberation. The government should ensure economic, social and cultural rights of the citizens, as proper development of a country is not possible without ensuring the rights of all."

Elaborating on the art scene in post-liberation Bangladesh, Baseer said that the stories of the Language Movement and Liberation War have often pervaded our theatre, literature and cinema. But the themes do not adequately appear in our art. This is a matter of much regret.

During the 1980s, a new feature had been added to Bangladeshi art scene. Painters started to widely exhibit their works abroad and many foreign painters have come here for exhibitions. The foreign artists exchanged their experiences and ideas with their Bangladeshi counterparts.

At present, people in the country are gradually becoming more interested in the arts. The number of art exhibitions by both senior and promising artists has increased over the years, and consequently art galleries are mushrooming. The practice of arts is no longer confined to the city, said an optimistic Baseer.

The artist was born in 1932. He joined Dacca Art College (now the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka) as a student in 1949. He is still actively exploring the diverse world of art. He has done a series of works articulating contemporary life and issues. Hope, aspiration, longing, deprivation and visions are evoked with passion in his images.

Many are perhaps not familiar with Baseer's other identities as a poet, short story writer, novelist, researcher, numismatist and filmmaker. Baseer has written novels and was acclaimed for his meticulous style and unique choice of themes. Baseer has also worked as a screenplay writer, art director and chief assistant director for the Bangla film "Nadi O Nari" in 1964, and as an art director for the Urdu film "Kaise Kaho" in 1965.

and Swadhin Bangla Beter Kendra artiste and freedom fighter Elen Mallik were present at the workshop.

Goswami told The Daily Star, "I visited different institutions in the country and discovered that Bangladeshi children and youth are greatly interested in mime and they are also talented."

Goswami was born at Sonargaon village in Dhaka, Bangladesh on March 10, 1949. After his father's death, Goswami along with his family went to Mumbai, India in 1953 and later settled in Kolkatta.

Goswami was awarded the fourth highest Indian civilian honour, Padma Shri, in 2009 for his outstanding contribution to mime art across the country.

## How well do you know 007?

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The Daily Star STAR Cineplex JAMES BOND QUIZ.

QUIZ: 13

- 1) The wife of which Bond ally is murdered in "License to Kill"?
- 2) What instrument does Bond's love interest play in "The Living Daylights"?
- 3) What was Alec Trevelyan's double O number in "GoldenEye"?

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(All questions from the *James Bond* series)

Winners of QUIZ 12: