

WHAT'S ON

Swapno O Droher Jatiyo
Nitya Utsab
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Experimental Theatre Hall, Music and Dance Centre & Studio Theatre Hall



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Exhibition
Organiser: VIAAN
Title: The Dream's Wear: Influenced by Folk Painting & Music
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi
Date: May 3-16; Time: 3-9pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: The Worship of Nature
Artist: SM Shahriar
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi
Date: May 10-16
Time: 3-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Prima Donna
Artist: Preema Nazia Andaleeb
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60 Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1
Date: May 4-13; Time: 12-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Impression of Surroundings-3
Artist: Mohiuddin Ahmed Mohim
Venue: Gallery Cosmos-2, H-115, R-6, New DOHS, Mohakhali
Date: May 10-20



NEWS bytes

Tour of Silence begins musical journey

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR
TOPU, Pabna

Tour of Silence, a newly-formed band of four youngsters from Pabna, began its musical journey with an open air concert last Friday.

President of Pabna Press Club, Professor Shibojit Nag, inaugurated the concert at the Pabna Town Hall premises. Advisor to the organisation, Kamal Ahmed Siddique; Advocate Murshad Subhani; and artiste Antor spoke on the occasion.

The group includes young musicians -- Midhad Ishan, Utsa, Antor and Ashik.

"We are committed to stirring the spirit of youth. Our concerts will motivate young people to play a role in catalysing social change," said Antor, also the organiser of the show.

Tagore Festival in Barisal

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

A two-day Tagore festival ended at Barisal Aswani Kumar Hall on Thursday night.

Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad (JRSSP) Barisal organised the festival with the theme "Shokol Rosher Dhara". The festival included discussions on the life and achievements of Tagore and recitations, songs, dance and plays of the bard.

JRSSP Barisal president Nazrul Islam Chunnupresided over the festival. Deputy Commissioner Shahidul Alam, educationist Professor Md Hanif, JRSSP secretary Shamima Masud Munni and cultural activists Akkas Hossain Kajal Ghosh spoke at the discussion.

Artistes of JRSSP, Barisal Natok, Khelaghar, Nrittangon, Pamtik Sangeet Bidiyaloy, and Udichi Shilpi Goshthi staged performances at the cultural programme.

It's True!

Beatles' drummer Richard Starkey -- better known as Ringo Starr, wrote songs like "Don't Pass me By" and "Octopus' Garden" for the legendary band. He, however, had remained illiterate till age eight as a result of prolonged hospitalisations caused by two life-threatening illnesses in his childhood. Two of the three years he spent in recovery was in a sanatorium after he contracted tuberculosis.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

FAHMIM FERDOUS

My father vs the actor:

As a child I was amazed by my father's ability to juggle two careers -- acting and civil engineering. Abbu (Abul Hayat) would take me to his workplaces; engineering sites, rehearsal rooms, recordings and shootings. Since childhood, I took great pride that my father was unlike my friends' fathers. My reading habit started from his library, and my artistic self developed under his guidance. It is because of him that I was drawn to acting.

My first steps into the realm of acting:

Back in the day, making of TV plays was different. Scripts were handed to artistes beforehand and lines had to be memorised to the last details. So when my father practiced his lines, he needed a co-actor; and I would read the co-actor's lines. That is how my interest in acting grew. I have read so many great scripts -- from the golden era of television plays -- that the format and styles were set in my head subconsciously. When I went to rehearsal rooms, there were so many great artistes practicing there for hours; their expressions, dialogue delivery and other aspects are etched in my mind. I also saw the great directors-producers -- Asadul Haq Chowdhury, Nawajesh Ali Khan,

Mustafizur Rahman -- at work, and I picked up a lot from them as well.

Abbu as a co-artist:

When we work, it's never in our minds that we are father-daughter. We've played roles of conflicted father-in-law and daughter-in-law; on stage when we did "Dewan Gazi'r Kissa", we played brother and sister, I would address him as "Makhon bhai". When we worked, we both wanted to stay true to our characters and give the output that the director wanted.

Best thing about abbu:

My father was supportive of my desire to study art, but my mother wanted me to study architecture. In those days, art was not considered a viable career path. Abbu persuaded Ma about it, and I am very grateful to him. However, I cannot separate my mother and my father's contributions to my life; they have such good understanding, and have always taken decisions together about me and my sister. We have seen a beautiful example of male-female coexistence and equality. I have never seen my father undermine any woman.

My parents raised me and my sister as human beings, and not just as daughters. They showed us the right path, but our priorities were always valued. For instance, Abbu never asked me to start acting, but he never had a problem

Abbu is a very idealistic person

-- Bipasha Hayat

Little Bipasha and Natasha, in the arms of abbu and ammu.

with it either.

Deep down, my father is a very idealistic person; he looks at life from a very clear perspective.

Down memory lane:

When I was seven, my father moved to Libya for work, and we lived there for three years. There were ruins of ancient Roman civilisation there. I am obsessed with archaeology, and all credit for that goes to Abbu. I strongly believe that such exposure has made me the person I am today.

Laila crowned Closeup One 2012

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nine-month journey to find the winner of one of the most popular musical reality shows on TV in Bangladesh came to an end on Saturday night, as Laila was adjudged the winner of this year's "Closeup 1 -- Tomakei Khujchhe Bangladesh 2012" with the most public votes. Sohag and Tutul secured the first and second runners-up titles respectively.

The grand gala was held at the capital's Bangabandhu International

Conference Centre, and was telecast live on ntv. Contestants from the previous editions of the show, as well as this year's finalists, performed songs from different eras of Bangladesh's music industry. Along with other esteemed guests, the three judges of the show -- Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul, Fahmida Nabi and Partha Barua -- were present at the programme.

The winner received a Mitsubishi Mirage car and Tk 10 lakh, while the first and second runners-up were handed cheques worth Tk 5 lakh and Tk 3 lakh respectively.

The essence of nature

SM Shahriar's exhibitions at Dhaka Art Centre

TAKIR HOSSAIN

SM Shahriar, a prolific painter strives to capture panoramic views of nature with quiet colours, distinctively personal technique and imagery. In combination with vision and intense observation, Shahriar is ever in search of the beauties of the natural world to enrich his works. The morsel of his lines, tones, textures and shades are derived from the natural world, and have evolved in realistic style. Shahriar is a figurative and naturalist painter, seizing on glimpses of pastoral life and focusing on fascinating male and female figures in rural settings.

His solo painting exhibition, titled "The Worship of Nature" is now on at Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi in the city.

Shahriar's works seem time-consuming; the artist details his themes extensively. His themes are also connected with human emotions and imagination. The painter is not at all complicated in his compositions or proportions, which are figurative as well as suggestive compositions, rich in textural strength and colour harmony. His paintings include does figurative work, men and women, animal, boats, pigeons, wild flowers, greenery and faces. He likes to work in soothing brush strokes, play-

ing with light and shade that mark his figures and objects from the surrounding space.

Shahriar is greatly attracted to portraying the female figure. The predominant colours are azure, red, black and emerald green, representing Mother Nature in torrential colours and scenic depiction. Shahriar has portrayed the inner essence of nature in many of his works; it is remarkable how he brings a deep capacity to feel and respond to the beauty of nature.

Some of his images denote stretches of land between the water and sky, which has the solidity of emerald-green land. The land's end embraced by the closeness of the atmosphere and water seems to be a flowing stream; he has tried to capture the mystery of nature and its different phases.

Shahriar's continuous experimentation gives a refreshing look to his canvas. The paintings are done mostly in oil on canvas. However, one aspect that remains a little disappointing that his works are a little overly decorative and engrossed with many inflexible compositions. The artist could be thrifter in his use of space and avoid unnecessary ornamentation, which would add more freedom and scholarly touch to his works.

The exhibition ends on May 16.

French-Lebanese singer Abaji performs at La Galerie

A CORRESPONDENT

A fascinating concert by world renowned French-Lebanese singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Abaji was held at the La Galerie of Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD) on Friday.

Amid applause by the attending audience, Abaji came on stage and opened the show with "For a Cloud" on a bamboo clarinet -- made by a luthier especially designed for Abaji from the south of France. Then he played "Anatolia" on a bouzouki -- a Greek traditional stringed instrument. He went on to play "Black Sea Blues" on the bouzouki, followed by "Red

Sand" on an instrument named "cura" -- a kind of Turkish mandolin. After that, he played "Improvisation 1" on the cura and "Steppes" on the laz kemencheh, a three-stringed Turkish-Greek violin. Abaji's repertoire included "Improvisation 2" on the laz kemencheh and "Immensity" on an Indian flute and a frame drum. He also presented a Turkish song titled "Tchodjouk Guitte" on the bouzouki.

He then rendered a song titled "Min Jouwwa" in Arabic -- which stands for "From the Inside", "Faraché" and "Improvisation 3" with a special guitar transformed into an oriental lute; the instrument, he calls as "oud-guitar". "Origine

Orients" on a Colombian bamboo saxophone followed.

He also played "Summertime 2" on the Hulusi, which is a Chinese instrument from the Yunnan province. Throughout the concert, Abaji used rattles on his ankles and a bass stompbox.

Abaji, born in Lebanon to a musical family, has had a successful career in France spanning five decades. He plays a number of string and wind instruments, and sings in five languages. He also composes music for films and TV programmes with French label Kosinus.

The event was sponsored by GETCO.

A CORRESPONDENT

An exclusive show on RTV, titled "Lux Bridal Show" will telecast its 100th episode tonight at 9:05 pm.

The show features trifles and niceties of the quintessential Bangali wedding, starting from the arrangement of a wedding ceremony, the first meeting between bride and groom, to buying ornaments, choosing wedding cards, dresses and more.

Weddings all across world have varied rituals and customs. Bangladesh is no exception; this is what has made the programme popular among viewers.

Host of the show, Sharmin Lucky said, "It was fun to dress up as a bride for every episode of the show. Today is the 100th time that I will dress up as a bride."

Produced by Shariar Islam, tonight's show will have a surprise for the viewers as well.

Tagore's birthday observed at National Museum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As part of the two-yearlong programmes celebrating its founding centenary, Bangladesh National Museum (BNM) arranged a discussion and cultural programme to mark the 152nd birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, at the main auditorium on May 11.

Eminent cultural personality and president of Chhayanaaut Dr. Sanjida Khatun was present as chief guest at the programme, while M Azizur Rahman, president of Bangladesh National Museum's Board of Trustees, was present as special guest. Ramendu Majumdar, president of International Theatre Institute, spoke about Tagore's life and contributions to art, theatre, literature, music and more. Ranjit Kumar Biswas, ndc, Secretary to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, presided over the programme. Prokash Chandra Das, director general of BNM, delivered the welcome speech at the programme.

The discussion followed performances by artistes of Chhayanaaut.

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