

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: The Oriental Life
Artist: Nazmul Haque Bappy
Venue: Gallery Chittrak, R-6, H-4, Dhanmondi
Date: May 18-27
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibit
Title: Fata Morgana
Artist: Rokiya Sultana
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, Gulshan-1
Date: May 17-June 11
Time: 5pm-8pm



Theatre
Play: Kabor
Troupe: Aranyak Natyadal
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 20
Time: 6:30pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Abohoman Bangla
Artist: Nikhil Chandra Das
Venue: Gallery Jolrong, H-134, R-3, Block-A, Niketan, Gulshan
Date: May 4-19
Time: 11am-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Biplob Goswami
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi
Date: May 17-26
Time: 3pm-7pm



NEWS bytes

Literary conference in Natore

BULBUL AHMED, Natore

A daylong regional literary conference, organised by Bangla Academy, ended in Natore on Friday. Eminent writer Hasan Azizul Haque inaugurated the event as chief guest, held at the Rani Bhabani palace premises. Shamsuzzaman Khan, Director General of Bangla Academy; Natore Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Zafarullah; president of Natore press club, Ronen Roy and professor Subid Kumar Moitro addressed the programme as special guests.

Eminent writer and novelist Dr. Zakir Talukdar presented the keynote address on “Literary practice in the Northern region”. Professor Dr. Abdul Zilil, chairman of Folklore department of Rajshahi University also discussed on the keynote.

A cultural event was also held, where artistes from eight northern districts performed.

The Charukala Four

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saju Khadem, Chanchal Chowdhury, Pran Ray and Nawshaba are all alum of the Institute of Fine Arts, better known as Charukala. Three of them are veterans in their respective careers, while the other is a newcomer.

Although they are busy with their individual work, the quadruple are getting together to work in a new serial called “Come to the Point”, directed by Manik Manobik.

George Michael airlifted after road accident

Singer-producer George Michael has been airlifted to hospital with a head injury following a crash on the M1 motorway in England.

The former “Wham!” star, 49, remains in hospital after the crash at junction 6A, near St Albans, Hertfordshire.

A spokesman for Michael confirmed he had been involved in an accident on Thursday, but said the singer only had “superficial cuts” and was “fine”.

Michael was a passenger in a Range Rover and no other vehicles were involved, the spokesman added.

Ambulance spokesman Gary Sanderson said: “The man who we believe to be in his 40s sustained a head injury and following treatment, stabilisation and immobilisation by land and air ambulance crews, he was flown to hospital for further care.”

Source: BBC

It's True!



Sarangi, a bowed string instrument originated from Gandharba folk music and now a common component of North Indian classical music, is said to most closely resemble the sound of the human voice. It is able to imitate vocal ornaments such as gamakas (shakes) and meend (sliding movements).

HSBC and Kali O Kalam honour wordsmiths

“Young Poets and Literature Awards 2012” conferred



The awardees (back row) seen with the guests at the programme.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

HSBC-Kali O Kalam Literature Awards 2012 were announced at the Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad auditorium in Bangla Academy on Friday. This year, four young writers received awards in four categories: poetry, literature, research and essay.

Monthly literary magazine Kali O Kalam, along with HSBC initiated the award in 2008.

The winners for the year 2012 are: Mostaque Ahmed Din for “Bhikhari-O Rajasthan-e Jay” in poetry; Mashudul Haq for the novel “Dirghashash-era Hawar Joley Bhashey” in literature; Pias Majid for “Korun Malloban O Onnanya Grantha” in essay and Mostak Ahmed for “Nakshatre-r Rajarbag” in

Liberation War-based novel.

Each winner received Taka 1 lakh, along with a certificate and a crest.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid was present as chief guest at the prize-giving ceremony, while popular author Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal was present as special guest. Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman, president of the editorial board of Kali O Kalam, presided over the programme. Eminent educationist Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, president of the jury board; Abul Hasnat, editor of Kali O Kalam; and Mahbubur Rahman, chief of corporate banking of HSBC talked at the programme. Abul Khair Litu, chairman of Bengal Foundation was also present at the programme.

The guests expressed hopes that young writers would make greater contribution to the progress of society.

Abul Hasnat said, “The writers have been selected for this award in recognition of their contribution towards contemporary literature. They are searching for new ideas and novel themes. I believe that the award will encourage unique thinking in their respective fields.”

Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman said, “This award will encourage the winners to continue their efforts with greater zeal and courage.”

After the award giving ceremony, a solo musical performance, featuring singer Laisa Ahmed Lisa was held at the venue. Elocutionist Bhaswar Bandopadhyay also recited at the programme.

Buddhadeb Dasgupta's ode to Tagore

“Quartet 1” screened in New Delhi



A scene from “Banshiwala”.

KAVITA, New Delhi

"In the village they call her the dark girl

But to me she is the flower

Krishnakali

On a cloudy day in a field

I saw the dark girl's dark gazelle-eyes.

She had no covering on her head,

Her loose hair had fallen on her

back."

[“Krishnakali” -- Rabindranath Tagore.]

Mysterious, beautiful and strong women characters populate many of Tagore's finest literary creations. Binodini in “Chokher Bali”, Charulata (“Nashtaneer”), Bimala (“Ghore

Baire”) or Mrinal (“Streer Potro”) are just a few of them. These unforgettable stories have been made into equally unforgettable films, largely by auteur director Satyajit Ray.

Making films set to Tagore's poetry is far more challenging and only the most daring, creative and accomplished filmmaker would venture into such uncharted waters. It takes someone of the stature of renowned poet-writer-filmmaker Buddhadeb Dasgupta to make 13 short films (Trayodashi) based on 13 of Tagore's poems. One of them is “Krishnakali”, (The Dark Maiden) that formed a part of “Quartet 1”, screened recently in New Delhi.

The other 30-minute films that brought up the quartet were the “Banshiwala”, (The Flautist), “Istition” (The Station) and “Pukur Dhare” (The Pond). “Krishnakali” presents a young poet's fascination with an intriguing young woman who he encounters in the

countryside. The haunting woman throws a spell on him and he returns years later to see her once again.

“Banshiwallah” reflects a beautiful young woman's desire to break free of the trammels of oppressive domesticity that have chained her to a brutish husband and overbearing in-laws. A flautist offers her a chance of escape.

“The Pond” and “The Station” are more humorous. The protagonist of the former is a woman who spends languid hours observing life around a pond through her binoculars. Outside her window is a failed poet tearing up poems as soon as he has written them, a man with fishing rod intent on freeing each fish that he catches, and another more loutish angler. There's a tearful young girl at the end of the film who can't help but burst into laughter as she witnesses the absurdity of life.

“The Station” too is a witty commentary on a man who misses his train to Howrah from a sleepy railway station where time seems to have come to a standstill. Forced to spend the night on the platform, he comes across a beggar, a prostitute and a young thief who recount their life stories. Kept up all night by these motley characters, the morning sees him deep in slumber. When the long-awaited train finally chugs into the station, he has missed it once more.

Some of the films are set in the tranquil countryside of Bengal. The sensitive, subtle and well crafted films, with minimal dialogue were obviously not everybody's idea of entertainment when screened at the 8th Habitat Film Festival in Delhi. A restive audience marred the viewing experience as did the occasional burst of laughter at serious moments. But for those with a more refined aesthetic sense, the evening was a cerebral treat.

European Union Film Festival begins

A European Union film festival begins today at the Star Cineplex in the capital, and is set to continue till June 4. Films from Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and The Netherlands will be screened during the festival, according to a press release.

The European Union Film Festival is jointly organised by the Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh, Star Cineplex, the British High Commission and the embassies of Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland in Bangladesh.

The films to be screened today are “Sonny Boy” from Netherlands at 11am and 4:30pm, and “La Seconda Notte di Nozze” (The Second Wedding Night) from Italy at 1:45pm and 7pm. Further details of the screening timings are available at the Cineplex web site, and Facebook event “European Film Festival 2013”.

ALBUM REVIEW

A brilliant blend of classical, Rabindra Sangeet and electronica

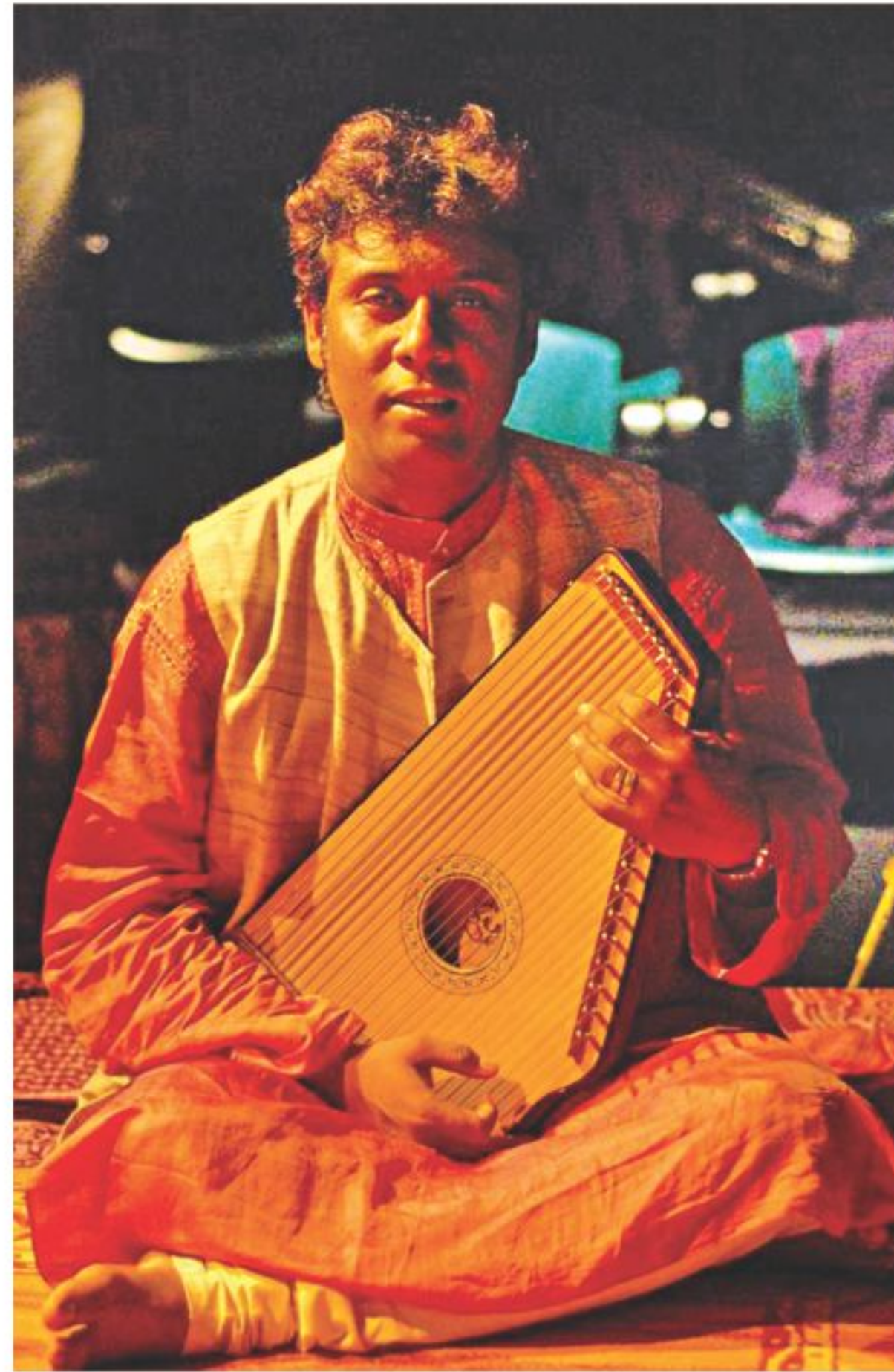
ZAHANGIR ALOM

The musical taste of aficionados of classical music and Rabindra Sangeet are often intersecting, and artiste Tushar Dutta's latest album “Tagore Trance: From twilight till dawn” provides exactly that. The album, featuring 10 Tagore songs set on classical ragas and electronica-influenced percussion and synth, is an absolute treat for those with a taste for it.

The album masterfully intertwines the all-encompassing serenity of Tagore songs and its connection with Indian classical music, with a zing of trance-like background.

The album opens with “Aailo Shanto Shondhya”, based on raga “Shree”, embodying a nuance of twilight with the placidity of evening; the concluding song “Mono, Jago Mongololoke”, set on raga “Bhairav”, leads the audience towards embracing the serenity of dawn.

In between, some rare games of notes and taan are apparent in all the eight tracks -- “Satya Mongolo Premomoy Tumi” and “Dariye Achho Tumi Amar” (on raga Yaman); “Din-er Belaye Banshi Tomar” and “Tumi



Tushar Dutta

Robey Nirobey” (on Behag); “Je Raat-e Mor Duarguli” (on Bageshree); “Anek Din-er Shunnota” (on Hameer); “Chhinno Patar Sajai Taroni” (on Jhinjhoti) and “Shukher Majhe Tomaye Peyechhi” (on Kedar/Chhayanaut).

The specialty of the album remains the confluence of the artiste's love for classical music and passion for raga-inspired Tagore songs. His blossoming of the respective raga, coupled with the untainted notations of Tagore song suggests his mastery in the art. Music arrangements for the album expose a blend of both sub-continental and western instrumental uses, while taan performances amid a number of tracks add a mellifluous dimension to the album.

Tomal Chakraborty has done a splendid job with sound design and mixing for the album, brought out under the label of UD Series.

Originally from Natore, Bangladesh, Tushar Dutta went to India in his teens as an ITC-Sangeet Research Academy scholar. The artiste had tutelage of Pt. A. Kanan, Pt. Arun Bhaduri, Pt. Sunil Bose, Pt. K.G. Ginde and others. He shared the stage both at home and abroad with the brightest classical music maestros including Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma, Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, Pt. Jasraj, Pt. Ajoy Chakraborty and Ustad Rashid Khan.

TV WATCH

John Carter



After unwittingly being transplanted to Mars, Civil War veteran John Carter finds himself in a planet inhabited by tribes of 12-foot tall barbarians, at war for over a thousand years. After being held captive, Carter manages to escape, only to encounter a scientist princess who is in desperate need of a savior.

The film adaptation of Edgar Rice Burroughs' “A Princess of Mars” by Andrew Stanton features Taylor Kitsch in the lead role and Lynn Collins as his love-interest, Deja Thorris. Willem Dafoe, Samantha Morton and Mark strong also appear in the film in other major roles.

John Carter will air on Fox Movies Premium 9pm tonight