

Tagore Dance Show
Troupe: Nritya Nandan
Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium,
Dhanmondi
Date: June 22
Time: 7pm



Group Photography
Exhibition
Title: Limbo
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, H-60,
R-31, Gulshan 1
Date: June 14-30



Group Exhibition
Marking Ten-Year Journey of
Galleri Kaya
Title: Glimpses
Venue: H-20, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara
Date: June 21-July 20
Time: 11am-7:30pm



Musical Soiree
Artiste: Shantanu Biswas
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural
Centre, H-35, R-22, Gulshan-1
Date: June 22
Time: 6:30pm



Painting Exhibition
Title: Book is Light
Artist: Proshanta Karmakar
Venue: Café Gallery, R-72, H-3A,
Gulshan-2
Date: June 1-July 24
Time: 10am-10pm



NEWS bytes

Three-day children's book fair in Ghatail

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

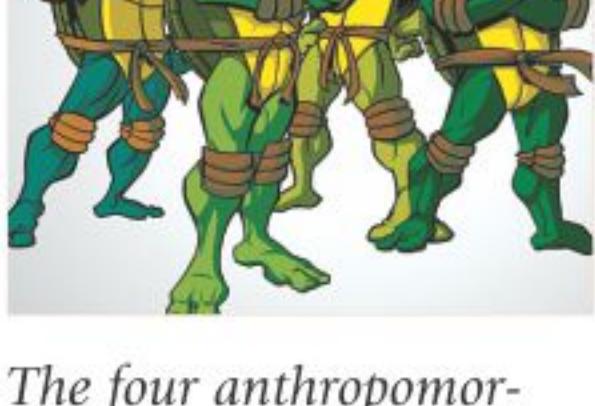
A three-day children's book fair began at Ghatail upazila in Tangail on Thursday.

Wisdom Valley Kindergarten School arranged the fair at its premises. A large number of children of different schools of the upazila headquarters and their guardians made for the fair to buy books on the first day.

Professor Mohammad Tozammel Hossain, principal of Brammanshashan Women's College, inaugurated the book fair in the morning.

The book fair is open to the public from 3:00pm from 9:00am till Saturday.

It's True!



The four anthropomorphised turtles in the popular comic series "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" were named after four famous Renaissance artists: Leonardo, Michelangelo, Donatello and Raphael. The comic series, first published in 1984 was a parody to four of the most popular comics of the early 1980s: Marvel Comics' "Daredevil" and "New Mutants", Dave Sim's "Cerebus", and Frank Miller's "Ronin". It found fame quickly, and enjoyed massive popularity in the late eighties and early nineties, expanding to TV cartoons, films, video games and action figures.



Journalist-turned-actor Hasan Masood made his career breakthrough on the silver screen and won many hearts in the process. He later shifted towards television appearances which only gave him a firmer niche among viewers.

The much-loved star recently came to the DS Cafe to chat with his admirers.

Rana, Dhaka: How did you enter the media world?

Hasan Masood: It was out of the blue. I have experience from working at different places -- the Bangladesh Army, BBC and even The Daily Star. During my time at the newspaper, Mostafa Sarwar Forooski offered me a role in his film "Bachelor". Later, I also went on to do his drama "69". After a while, I left journalism to pursue acting full time.

Mohsin, Dhaka: You sing quite well. Did you take lessons in singing?

Hasan Masood: I was a student of

Chhayanaut when I was in class eight or nine. While I was studying for my intermediate exams, I was recruited in the army. I was in my 5th year in Chhayanaut when I had to leave. That is the extent of my music lessons.

Shanto, Chittagong: Were you ever involved with theatre?

Hasan Masood: Never. I only took a small course at Shilpakala.

Imran, Savar: Do you follow in the footsteps of anyone as an actor?

Hasan Masood: No, I don't follow or imitate anyone in my acting. I prefer to express my role very naturally.

Sohel, Dhaka: Do you feel that the quality of TV plays is going downhill?

Hasan Masood: It is natural for the quality to drop. Even the third assistant directors are sitting in the director's seat nowadays. Everyday, more and more TV plays

are being aired on the burgeoning channels. Everyone is trying to make plays with whatever label they can get hold of. The supply is inadequate compared to the demand. As a result, below-par productions are being passed as supplies to the demand group. These are the reasons why the quality is downhill.

Lonny, Dhaka: How do you act so brilliantly?

Hasan Masood: I try my best to ensure that the work is good. Maybe it's the determination that gets the job done.

Sagar Chowdhury, Sylhet: What does one need to do to become a good actor?

Hasan Masood: They have to act with all their heart and learn the tricks of the trade. One also has to have seriousness and a love for acting. All of these are not possible to achieve in a day. Prospective actors have to hold on to their passion of act.

Shafiq, Tangail: Name your favorite drama.

Hasan Masood: Till date my favorite play is "Taxi Driver".

How many films have you done so far?

Hasan Masood: Four. Following my debut in "Bachelor", I did "Made in Bangladesh". Later, I did two more films. Talks are on for future projects.

Runa, Sylhet: I know about your passion for photography. Do you have any plan to organise an exhibition of your images?

Hasan Masood: I do have plans to hold an exhibition.

Bijli, Gulshan: Can you share a funny anecdote with us?

Hasan Masood: When the movie "Bachelor" was released, I was working in BBC. A Bengali family in London invited me over to their house for dinner with the impression that I was a bachelor in real life. Suddenly my wife called me on the phone and while I talked to her, they realised their mistake. At one point, I wanted to speak to my child. My phone conversation made them speechless. It was a funny experience!

Transcribed by Shah Alam Shazu



Sufia Kamal's 102nd birth anniversary observed

June 20 marked the 102nd birth anniversary of late Sufia Kamal, a renowned poet and a pioneer of women's rights movement in Bangladesh.

Different socio-cultural organisations held various programmes, including discussion and cultural function, to pay tribute to the poet.

Born in Barisal on June 20, 1911, Sufia Kamal dedicated her life to empowering women. She was at the forefront of all political, social and cultural movements during her lifetime to establish human rights and achieve women's emancipation.

She was a daughter of a Zamindar family. During her childhood, women's education was prohibited and she could not afford to get academic education. But she learnt Bengali, Hindi, English, Urdu, Arabic, Kurdish and Persian language from her house tutors. In 1918, she went to Kolkata with her mother where she came to meet with Begum Rokeya. She was first married at the age of 11 to her cousin Syed Nehal Hossain, then a law student. Together they had a daughter, Amena Kahar. Hossain died in 1932. Five years later, Sufia married Kamaluddin Ahmed.

In addition to her first daughter, Sufia had two other daughters - Sultana Kamal and Saida Kamal and two sons - Shahed Kamal and Sajed Kamal. She came across prominent South Asian personalities, such as Begum Rokeya, Kazi Nazrul Islam and Mahatma Gandhi.

Sufia's first poem, Bashanti, was published in Saqqa magazine in 1926. In 1931, she became the first Bengali Muslim female to be the member of Indian Women Federation.

She took part in all political movements that defined the future of the country since 1947. Her role in the struggle leading to the 1971 Liberation War, anti-autocratic movement in 1990 and the anti-collaborator movement in 1992 are memorable.

Sufia was instrumental in establishing the Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Chhayanaut and Kachi Kanchar Mela.

She received Independence Day Award, Ekushey Padak, Bangla Academy Award, Deshbandhu CR Das Gold Medal, and many other national and international accolades.

The poet passed away on November 20, 1999.

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Compiled by Correspondent

TV WATCH

Power Voice 2012 Grand Finale tonight



The winner of "Power Voice 2012" will be announced tonight, after an intense competition spanning several months. This season's winner will be chosen from the six finalists — Sajal, Bely, Raju, Cornia, Iva and Shamim — who have sung their way to the finale through some grueling rounds. The gala will take place at the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, and will be televised live at 7:30 pm on Channel 9, says a press release.

Eleven top participants of "Power Voice 2012" will be performing songs along with a dance piece by artistes of Eagle Group. Tanveer Khan will direct the grand finale.

Renowned singer of the subcontinent Runa Laila led the three-member judge panel of the reality show that included popular singer-musician Bappa Mazumder and music director Emon Saha. Singer Akhi Alamgir will emcee the event.

The power of music

Whether you are rocking out to Macklemore & Ryan Lewis in your car or reading with Bach in your bedroom, music has a special ability to pump us up or calm us down.

Scientists are still trying to figure out what's going on in our brains when we listen to music and how it produces such potent effects on the psyche.

Listening to music feels good, but can that translate into physiological benefit? Daniel Levitin -- a prominent psychologist who studies the neuroscience of music at McGill University in Montreal -- and colleagues published a meta-analysis of 400 studies in the journal "Trends in Cognitive Sciences", suggesting the answer is yes.

In one study reviewed, researchers studied patients who were about to undergo surgery. Participants were randomly assigned to either listen to music or take anti-anxiety drugs. Scientists tracked patient's ratings of their own anxiety, as well as the levels of the stress hormone cortisol. The results: patients who listened to music had less anxiety and lower cortisol than people who took drugs. This is only one study, and more research needs to be done to confirm the results, but it points toward a powerful medicinal use for music.

"The promise here is that music is arguably less expensive than drugs, and it's easier on the body and it doesn't have side effects," said Levitin.

Levitin and colleagues also highlighted evidence that music is associated with immunoglobin A, an antibody linked to immunity, as well as higher counts of cells that fight germs and bacteria.

A brain area called the superior temporal gyrus is intimately involved in the experience of music. The genres of music -- that a person listens to over a lifetime



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

-- impact how the superior temporal gyrus is formed. However, the superior temporal gyrus alone doesn't predict whether a person likes a given piece of music, but it's involved in storing templates from what you've heard before. For instance, a person who has heard a lot of jazz before is more likely to appreciate a given piece of jazz music than someone with a lot less experience.

"The brain kind of works like a music recommendation system," says researcher Valerie Salimpoor.

"Despite our idiosyncrasies in listening, the brain experiences music in a very consistent fashion across subjects," said Daniel Abrams, lead author and postdoctoral researcher at Stanford University School of Medicine. Seventeen participants who had little or no music training took part in a study where they listened to four symphonies by composer William Boyce of the late Baroque period, which the researchers chose because they reflect Western music but were likely to be unfamiliar to subjects. Among participants, the researchers found synchronization in several key brain areas, and similar brain activity patterns in different people who listen to the same music.

This suggests that the participants not only perceive the music the same way, but, despite whatever personal differences they brought to the table, there's a level on which they share a common experience.

The results also reflect the power of music to unite people, Levitin said.

"It's not our natural tendency to thrust ourselves into a crowd of 20,000 people, but for a Muse concert or a Radiohead concert we'll do it," Levitin said. "There's this unifying force that comes from the music, and we don't get that from other things."

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Source: CNN



Much action, little traction

"G.I. Joe: Retaliation" in 3D at Cineplex

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Star Cineplex has been on a roll of late; dishing out the latest action blockbusters at the film buffs of Dhaka at rapid succession. After "The Avengers", "Parker" and "Iron Man 3", heart-pounding action in 3D continues at the country's only multiplex, as another oven-fresh global hit, "G.I. Joe: Retaliation" in 3D, was premiered on June 27.

Although the core G.I. Joe fandom lies only with true geeks of vintage action figures and cartoons, the characters will immediately demand attention of any adrenaline junkie. Boasting a cast featuring Bruce Willis, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Channing Tatum and Byung-hun Lee, this film is an no shortage of action and thrill. The script is in the all-too-familiar mould of an evil genius planning world domination, and a group of beleaguered heroes battling odds to emerge triumphant. As the government dissolves the G.I. Joes on Zartan's (Arnold Vosloo) accusation of stealing nuclear warheads, its members Roadblock (Dwayne Johnson) is seen marooned in the desert with Lady Jaye (Adrienne Palicki) and Flint (DJ Cotrona) after Duke (Channing Tatum) is killed in a strike. Meanwhile, nuclear warfare is on the mind of Joes' nemesis Cobra. Trying to rescue the Cobra Commander (Byung-

hun Lee) is injured. His cousin Snake Eyes (Ray Park) and apprentice Jinx (Elodie Yung) are sent to capture Storm Shadow to answer for killing the Hard Master. Roadblock and Co. arrive at their last resort, to General "Joe" Joseph Colton (Bruce Willis), who helps them regroup. The Cobra's plans are finally revealed by the Joes, and with allegiance of Snake Eyes, Jinx and Storm Shadow, they foil the plan and save the world from inevitable doom of eight world leaders all launching their nuclear warheads on each other.

What's good about the film is the action. The sequences are pacey, the explosions spectacular and the martial arts breathtaking -- especially the mountain sequence of Jinx and Snake Eyes battling an army of ninjas to retrieve Storm Shadow, who is in a bodybag. The weaponry is impressive, the aggression almost infectious and the technology hyper-futuristic, but it fails to live up to potential because the no-brainer plot is often entangled, mostly predictable and the characters are flat -- save Storm Shadow at times.

However, action flicks are best enjoyed on 3D, and the action direction of the film has made excellent use of it. Despite the weaknesses, it is a film most definitely worth checking out, especially on the big screen. With the right expectations, it could be 110 minutes very well spent.