

WHAT'S ON

20th National Art Exhibition  
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: June 22-July 12  
Time: 11am-8pm

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

Shakti  
Title: Feminist Dance Theatre  
Organiser: Shadhona  
Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 25  
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

# NEWSbytes

## The newest Address in town

A CORRESPONDENT

"The Address" -- the most recent movie production house to join the Dhaliwood ranks -- announced its arrival by disclosing plans for three new film titles: "Aadi", "Maya", and "One Way". The movies will be directed by Tanim Rahman Aungshu, Masudul Hasan and Iftekhar Chowdhury respectively. Rajib Chowdhury will be the producer, while Shikdar Mohammad Russel will be the executive producer. The announcement was made on Wednesday through a press conference at Dhaka Club's Sinha lounge.

## It's True!



Madonna has won nine Razzie Awards: Worst Actress for "Shanghai Surprise" (1987), "Who's that Girl" (1988), "Body of Evidence" (1994), Worst Supporting Actress for "Four Rooms" (1996), "The Next Best Thing" (2001) and "Die Another Day" (2003), Worst Actress and Worst Screen Couple for "Swept Away" (2003) and Worst Actress of the Century in 2000. She, however, won a Golden Globe for Best Actress in *Evita* (1997).



## 20th National Art Exhibition begins in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Art Exhibition brings about a festive mood in the local art circuit. The exhibition is organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). This year's exhibition -- the 20th installment -- features displays of 280 artworks by 255 artists. At the National Art Gallery, BSA, 222 paintings, 39 prints, 40 sculptures, three tapestries and 15 installations are on display.

Initially, 548 artists submitted a total of 1260 artworks, out of which 280 were selected by a five-member board comprising AKM Qayyum, Dr. Farida Zaman, Sheikh Afzal Hossain, Lala Rukh Selim, Md Jasimuddin and Dr. Aminul Momenin Chowdhury for exhibition. The exhibition was inaugurated by Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith on June 22. Veteran painter Samarjit Roy Chowdhury was present as special guest. Liaquat Ali Lucky, director general of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, presided over the programme. Anwar Hossain, director of Fine Arts Department, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy delivered the welcome speech at the programme.

In his speech, AMA Muhith praised the organisers for arranging the exhibition. He said, "The exhibition plays an important role at the national level as artists get their prime recognition here."

Five members of the jury committee are: Syed Jahangir, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Hashem Khan, Rafiqun Nabi and Rokeya Sultana.

Mohammad Mainuddin won the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Award at



Gulshan Hossain (R) receives the award from the Finance Minister. (Top) Artworks on display.

this year's National Art Exhibition. He got a crest, certificate and a cheque worth Taka 1 lac. Mohammad Hasan Morshed, Munjurul Lovy and Mohammad Hasanur Rahma won Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Honourable Mention Awards. They each received a crest, certificate and a cheque worth Taka 25,000. Anisuzzaman Mamun won the Dipa Hoq Award, taking home a crest, certificate and a cheque worth Taka 20,000. Gulshan Hossain won the Bengal Foundation Award -- a crest, certificate and a cheque worth Taka 1 lac. Ruhul Karim Rumi won the Society for Promotion of Bangladesh Art (SPBA) Award. He got a crest, certificate and a cheque worth Taka 80,000. Zahida Akhter won the Begum Azizunnesa Fine Arts Award, and she received a crest, certificate and a cheque worth Taka 25,000. Rasel Kanti Das won the AB Bank Award. He got a crest, certificate and a cheque worth Taka 50,000.

Participation of painters who emerged in the mid and late '80s, and '90s is noticeable at the exhibition. The objective of this exhibition was to bring together artists belonging to different age groups, working in different mediums and techniques. The event has also become a platform, encouraging exchange of ideas between artists, critics and art enthusiasts.

The participants have expressed their feelings through watercolour, oil, mixed media, acrylic, tempera, graphics, installation, video art etc.

The works at the exhibition are justifiably expected to possess distinctively local characteristics in terms of forms, subjects and aesthetics. Artists' mode of expression varied---realistic, semi-realistic, pure-abstraction, semi-abstraction, abstract expressionism, expressionism, impressionism and neo-expressionism.

The exhibition will continue till July 12.

## Artistic autistic children

### HANS and Surf Excel organise art exhibition

To raise public awareness about the latent talents of autistic children, students' association HANS, in partnership with Surf Excel, has organised a seven-day art exhibition from June 22 at DRIK Gallery, Dhanmondi, Dhaka titled "Emerged From Unknown V". On display are 120 paintings by special children from various special schools, says a press release.

The inaugural ceremony of the exhibition was preceded by a press conference where Naimur Rahman, member of advisory panel of HANS, selector of the paintings Abul Barq Alvi, Professor, Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka and KSM Minhaj, brand building director, Unilever Bangladesh Ltd. were present. Later, Abul Barq Alvi along with the guests inaugurated the event.

The organisers said that the exhibition would go a long way in changing the perception that autism spells disability. On the contrary they are creative members of society. The paintings at the exhibitions are also on sale.

Abul Barq Alvi said, "The young members of HANS leave me spellbound with their annual event. I was given the onerous responsibility of selecting these pictures which are testimony to the latent talents of autistic children."

KSM Minhaj said, "I am not only stunned, but also speechless after seeing this beautiful event. I want to thank Surf Excel for its noble initiative to explore the latent talent of these wonderful children and change the erroneous perceptions about autistic children."

The exhibition will remain open everyday from 3pm-8pm till June 28.



Abul Barq Alvi (L) watches the exhibition.

**Noted baul Md. Alam Dewan -- the chairman of "Baul Prachar Shangstha" -- was recently handed a special award from the Prime Minister from the Health and Family Planning Ministry, for his outstanding contributions to raising awareness on safe motherhood through television and radio.**

# Of Euphoric Rhythm, Grace and Mudra

## Nrityanandan hails monsoon at Chhayanaut

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Monsoon, a season steeped in beauty, when bountiful Mother Nature unfolds herself, is only too well captured in Tagore creations that truly evoke the lingering feeling of infinite bliss, far beyond the boundless boundaries of his compositions. Set to several Tagore monsoon melodies, noted dance troupe Nrityanandan enthralled the audience in an exquisite dance show titled "Badol Meghe Madol Baje", at the Chhayanaut Auditorium on June 22.

The artistic excellence of the event held high as renowned elocutionist Bhashwar Banerjee narrated and recited from Tagore's "Geetanjali", "Chhinnapatra" and "Borshamangol" in a way that seemed to showcase diverse images of rain-drenched bucolic beauty as depicted by Tagore.

Noted danseuse Sharmila Banerjee choreographed, planned and directed the entire event in Tagorean dance style. She incorporated both classical and contemporary dance forms to offer the audience a variety of Tagorean monsoon melodies into the performed compositions.

Nrityanandan artistes set off the show dancing to the song "Dharonir Gagoner Miloner Chhondey" that portrayed the celestial love affair between the earth and the sky celebrated with the fragrance of Malati, a monsoon flower. Two male artistes of the troupe delighted the audience with their presentation of "Bajra Manik Diye Gnatha".

Disciples of Sharmila Banerjee,



Tathoi leads a group dance. (Top) Sharmila Banerjee in an enchanting performance.

particularly her daughter Sudeshna Swayamprabha Tathoi, led the troupe in several presentations. The talented dancer was quick, powerful and at the same time, nimble.

The real beauty of this season comes out in the lyrics and tunes of a Tagore song "Esho Shyamolo Sundaro". It is the bard's very song welcoming the advent of monsoon, and an evocative dance piece on the song was unveiled on stage, led by Tathoi. The rhythms of their ghungur resonating with the graceful mudra of Kathak soothed the hearts of dance aficionados.

Tathoi with a co-artist superbly showcased a dance with "Nilojanano Ghano Punjochhayay", a song based

on raga Mian Ki Malhar. Referring to the overcast sky, it is sort of an invocation to the season.

Sharmila Banerjee presented a composition set on the song "Badol Meghe Madol Baje" with dexterity. The artiste, accompanied by several co-artists brilliantly acted out with the song "Aaji Jharer Raat-e Tomar Abhishar".

The troupe wrapped up the event with an exuberant performance set on the popular song "Pagla Hawar Badal Din-e". Several young artistes of Nrityanandan performed a piece on the cover "Rimjhim Gahno Ghano Rey" that also came as a highlight at the end of the show.

Maasranga Television was the media partner of the event.

## Building bridges through melody

### World Music Day celebrated in Chittagong

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

With the theme, "Unite the world through melody," World Music Day was observed in Chittagong city on June 21 amidst festivity.

Marking the occasion, a musical evening was held at District Shilpakala Academy, Chittagong with the participation of prominent cultural organisations of the city.

Bangladesh Sangeet Samonnoy Parishad, Chittagong divisional chapter organised the event in association with Indian Assistant High Commission, Chittagong.

The programme featured folk, Tagore, Nazrul, Teen Kabir gaan, patriotic and classical songs.

Indian Assistant High Commissioner to Chittagong Somnath Ghosh inaugurated the programme, while educationist and researcher Professor Golam Mustafa was chief guest.

Artiste Joyanti Lala chaired the programme. Ustad Swarnamoy



Abdul Gafur Hali receives the award.

PHOTO: STAR

Chakraborty gave the welcome speech. Veteran folk singer and composer Abdul Gafur Hali was honoured at the programme for his contribution to folk music.

Music arouses sensibility, frees the soul from darkness and builds bridges among fellow human beings, said Mustafa in his speech.

The programme started with the choral rendition of "Tomaro mohima

gantha" by the artistes of Sadaranga Uchchanga Sangeet Parishad.

Later, members of Abbhudaya presented two Tagore songs, following the performance of Sangeet Bhaban's "Jhar eshechhe". Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha rendered a Nazrul song "Meghe mridanga baje".

Arya Sangeet, Sangeet Tirtha, Sangeet Parishad also rendered musical numbers at the programme.

### YOUR QUESTIONS KEEP SANG LAP ROLLING

Is the Government's proposal to change the structure of Grameen Bank beneficial for the organization, or an attempt to humiliate Dr. Muhammad Yunus?

Should there be legislation to ban certain words from debates in the national parliament?

The Prime Minister has said she is worried that a caretaker government may not hold an election at all. Are there any grounds for this concern?

### BBC বাংলাদেশ সংলাপ

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