


Print Exhibition
 Artist: Biren Shome
 Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi
 Date: June 28-July 24
 Time: 3-8pm



Painting Exhibition
 Title: Passion for Blue
 Artist: Gopal Chandra Saha
 Venue: Institute of Asian Creatives, Gulshan-2
 Date: July 5-15
 Time: 12pm-8pm



Group Prints Exhibition
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge
 Date: July 5-Aug 10
 Time: 12pm-8pm



Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Whistle
 Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-7, R-13, Dhanmondi
 Date: July 5-14
 Time: 12-8pm



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




NEWS bytes

Hitchcock silent films join Unesco register

Alfred Hitchcock's nine surviving silent films will join artefacts such as the "Domesday Book" in representing the cultural heritage of the UK. Hitchcock's earliest works premiered at the British Film Institute last summer following extensive restoration. They have now been added to the Unesco UK Memory of the World Register. The British Film Institute (BFI) spent three years restoring the films, made between 1925 and 1929, ahead of their premiere at the London 2012 Festival. Titles include debut feature "The Pleasure Garden" and boxing drama "The Ring". A tenth film made during the period, "The Mountain Eagle" (1926), remains lost.

Source: BBC



It's True!

Leopold Mozart, a concertmaster of the court orchestra in 18th century Austria, came home from church and found his young son, Wolfgang, busily writing at his desk. He was at first stern with the boy for using his ink and paper, but upon examination, was amazed to discover that the five-year old had created a concerto for the harpsichord. Leopold then declared it a bit difficult, to which Wolfgang said "not without some practice," and proceeded to play his new composition. The incident is considered the first public performance of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, one of the most gifted and influential classical composers of all time.

Taking Bangla music to the world Bengal Music signs digital distribution contract with ME Label



Krishnakali (R) signs the artistes' contract.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Online sales of music has become a common phenomena now; sales of physical copies of music (CD's) have gone down globally since services like iTunes, Spotify, Amazon and Google Music have enabled people to legally own music in its absolute digital format, without any physical carrier. The trend, however, has not hit Bangladesh until very recently. ME Label -- a concern on Mushroom Entertainment -- had recently begun a channel for online distribution of Bangladeshi artistes' music, and have released songs of popular artistes like Jon Kabir (former vocal of rock band Black), Bappa Mazumder, Tahsan and Shafin Ahmed (Miles) on iTunes and other digital sale platforms. Bengal Music Company (BMC) -- a concern of Bengal Foundation -- have been promoting young, talented artistes trying to bring new waves of music to the country, along with ever-

green classics by noted artistes as well. The company recently felt the need for taking their albums on a truly global platform, accessible instantly from any corner of the earth via an internet connection. In a bid to achieve that, BMC recently signed a contract with ME Label for online sales and distribution of all their released albums, as well as for all the albums to be released under BMC in future. Vice President of Mushroom Entertainment and popular singer Armeen Musa was present at the signing at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, along with Zinat Chowdhury and Labik Kamal, Director and creative director of BMC respectively. Artistes who have had their albums released from BMC also signed contracts at the programme. Following the signing ceremony, Labik, Sajeeb, Nobonita, Leemon, Armeen, Joy and Parvez -- artistes associated with BMC and ME Label -- performed their popular songs at the programme.

An oriental touch to a Greek tragedy Raja Himadri to be staged in Kolkata

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe Drishtipat's 21st production "Raja Himadri" will be staged at three venues in Kolkata, this July. Organised by Prachyo, Kolkata, the acclaimed production will first be staged at the International Bangla Theatre Fair at Belgharia Nazrul Mancha on July 23. The second show will be held on July 24 at Rabindra Bharati University while the third show is scheduled to be held at Tapan Theatre. Rialto, Kolkata is arranging the third staging of the play. "Oedipus", the familiar Greek tragedy by Sophocles, has seen many stage adaptations in different languages. In Bangladesh, several theatre productions have presented the tragedy and Drishtipat's production is the latest version. The troupe gives the Greek tragedy an oriental touch, as the new production,

"Raja Himadri", zooms in on the misfortune of a ruler from a Himalayan state. Drishtipat premiered the production at Shilpakala Academy on June 15, 2012. Khandakar Tazmi Noor, as a guest artiste, adapted, directed and played the protagonist. While the oft-read story of "Oedipus" circles around King Oedipus and his wife-mother Jocasta, "Raja Himadri" has different protagonists. The plot: King Himadri and his wife Himrani live happily together until a stranger arrives one day and discloses Himadri's dark secret. The secret opens a bleak chapter in the royal couple's lives and finally separates them. The cast includes Marjana Barkatun Borsha, Abdul Halim Aziz, Jahangir Kabir Bokul, Mrinmoy Chakraborty, Abul Hossain Ador, Shreya Khandakar and Rafiqul Islam.



A scene from the play.



Marking the 71st birth anniversary of veteran guitarist Enamul Kabir and commemorating his 55 years with the guitar as companion, the lone monthly magazine on music "Sargam" recently organised a discussion along with a cultural event at VIP Lounge of National Press Club in Dhaka, says a press release. Noted lyricist KG Mustafa graced the occasion as chief guest while former Cultural Secretary Nazmul Ahsan Chowdhury was present as a special guest. Editor of "Sargam" Kazi Rawnak Hossain presided over the programme. At the event the "Sargam" family presented a crest to Enamul Kabir for his contribution to music.

Lakshyapar celebrates monsoon with classical music

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Classical music organisation "Lakshyapar" celebrated monsoon with an exceptional initiative, titled "Camping with Classical Music". Held in the beautiful campus of BACE (Bangladesh Association of Community Education) Training Centre, Sonargaon, the programme was focused on 'Exploring the Voice: Western and Sub-continental Methods'. The two trends were respectively dealt with by A.K. Azad, a music student of San Bernardino Valley College, California and Dr. Rezwan Ali of Chhayanaut. Tuli, one of the fifteen students who participated in the July 2-3 camp, was bubbling with enthusiasm as she said, "I am really fortunate to have been in the camp. It has changed my whole system of belief about the possibilities of the human voice." Both the trainers were of the opinion that if such camps are stretched up to two annual cycles of seven days, young musicians would flourish with great potential.



Artistes of Lakshyapar perform at the programme.

Just a day after the camp ended at dusk on July 3, Lakshyapar hosted one of its regular programmes. Titled "Megh Badoler Raag", it was the monsoon session of classical music, one of their four seasonal ventures. On the evening of July 5, the curtain raised with a group composition of three ragas -- Bhimpalashree, Yaman and Bhoopali -- sung by the trainees. The compact performance of the children showed that the efforts of Dr.

Rezwan Ali for the last two years are showing results. Up next was a demonstration lecture on the ragas of monsoon and their influence in Nazrul songs. This part was presented and performed by Dr. Fakir Suman. He took two main ragas of the season -- Megh and Mian Ki Malhar, for demonstration. After some elaborations and improvisations on these ragas, Dr. Suman gradually cited famous songs of

Nazrul and sang them to show how they bore Nazrul's base of and command over the North Indian classical music. The last performance came from young sitarist Nishit Dey, who began his presentation with raga "Mian Ki Mallar". His gradual unhurried exposition of the raga through variations of short and long phrases of notes absorbed the audience sitting in the blue light of the Narayanganj High School auditorium. The curtain fell with Nishit's recital of raga "Bhairabi", reminding connoisseurs of the gharana he belongs to. Sabuj Ahmed accompanied both the artistes on tabla. In the middle, there was Haradhan-Sukhen Scholarship distribution. Veteran educationist K. Zaman handed over the scholarships to six winners of last year's classical music competition. The programme was presented by Shaswati Pal. Radio Lakshyapar (www.lakshyapar.org) and four other online stations simultaneously aired the programme live, reaching over ten thousand audiences over the internet.



Frozen Colours of the Black Hole

29-year old Swiss photographer has created these images, in a series titled "Black Hole". The work celebrates the physics of centripetal force and the effects it has on simple paint and an ordinary drill with a metal rod connected on the end. The photos were taken using a flash lasting 1/40,000th of a second, thereby 'freezing' the motion. Inspiration for the project came from the drip paintings of Jackson Pollock, Fabian said.



PHOTO COURTESY: FABIAN OEFNER / CATERS NEWS AGENCY

The Flying Sikh on celluloid Bhaag Milkha Bhaag opens in theatres

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The biopic fever continues in Bollywood. The latest to fall for that genre is director Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra who has made his newest film about the indomitable courage of India's most successful track athlete. Milkha Singh overcame the childhood tragedy of losing his family in the communal cauldron of the Partition of Indian subcontinent in 1947, to seek Olympic glory. Mehra's directorial venture "Bhaag Milkha Bhaag" (Run, Milkha, Run) depicts the journey of a young Milkha Singh who lost his family during the Partition and went on to compete at the 1960 and 1964 Olympic Games. Singh finished fourth in the 400 metres sprint events at the 1960 Olympics in Rome after a spectacular final which was so close that it needed a photo finish to determine the fourth place. Milkha Singh, who won gold at both the Asian and Commonwealth Games, never fulfilled his dream of winning an Olympic medal. All the same, he became a national sporting icon and earned the sobriquet of "The flying Sikh". The new film, which opened in theatres worldwide yesterday, joined the Bollywood line of movies based on or inspired by real-life heroes. "We all grew up with the folklore of Milkha. His is a larger-than-life figure for us," said the film's director. The movie's title derives from the poignant last words spoken to Milkha Singh, who is now 77 years old, by his father. As he was dying, he told Milkha Singh to flee or he too would be killed in the post-partition riots



sweeping the subcontinent. Milkha Singh ran for his life and boarded a train from Pakistan to India with other refugees. Mehra, best known for directing films like "Rang De Basanti" and "Delhi-6", said he was inspired by Singh's story not just for his sporting achievements but for the impact the athlete had on a newborn nation struggling to assert itself. "This man never ran away from his fears, he ran along with them", said Mehra who is the latest Bollywood director to experiment with a biographical story, following a string of true-life movies in recent years that have turned out hits. Among the most successful was "The Dirty Picture" (2011), starring Vidya Balan and inspired by the life of a South Indian actress in the 1980s and critically-acclaimed sports biopic "Paan Singh

Tomar", starring Irrfan Khan, which is the story of athlete Tomar who became a notorious bandit. Currently in the pipeline are biopic movies about playback singer Kishore Kumar and India's latest Olympic medal winning boxing star Mary Kom -- a farmer's daughter from northeastern state of Manipur who became a five-time world champion and won a bronze medal at the London Olympics in 2012. Farhan Akhtar, who plays the role of Milkha Singh in Mehra's new movie, said portraying a living person was a huge responsibility that required months of both physical and mental preparation. Milkha hopes the film would encourage future Indian athletes by showing just how close he came to Olympic glory, and perhaps inspiring them "to fulfil that dream for me," the athlete said.