

WHAT'S ON

Jatyo Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan
Organiser: Jatyo Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad
Venue: Chhayanand Auditorium, Dhanmondi
Date: Aug 29-31; Time: 6pm



Birth Anniversary of Tagore, Nazrul & Sukanta
Organiser: Uchhi
Venue: Muktavadi (Town Hall), Mirpur-10
Date: August 3




Solo Water-colour Exhibition
Artist: Shabnur Maman
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi
Date: Aug 23-Sep 6



Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Ganesh Haloi
Venue: Bengal Shipalaya, H-42, R-16, Dhanmondi
Date: Aug 28-Sep 8



Street Show of Doodles
Artist: Mustapha Khalid Palash
Venue: Hatbread, R-11, Banani, Dhaka
Date: Aug 6-Sept 5
Time: 7pm-10pm



Blending East and West



TAKIR HOSSAIN

The East West Arts, a Canada-based artists' organisation, has arranged a group art exhibition titled "Art without Reservations" featuring the works of Asian expatriate artists in Canada. The exhibition is now on at Papermill Art Gallery in Toronto. The exhibition was inaugurated on August 26.

Noted Bangladeshi expatriate painter Tajuddin Ahmed is the coordinator of the exhibition. He spoke to The Daily Star over the telephone. In his words, "For a long time, I was planning to organise the exhibition. The participating artists have created fresh works specifically for the exhibition. They have worked with varied mediums like acrylic, oil, mixed media, watercolour, graphics, prints and more. All these works have been professionally displayed at the gallery so that spectators and members of the art fraternity have the best opportunity to view the artworks and

gauge for themselves the high standards of Eastern and Western contemporary art, through this prestigious exhibition".

The participating artists are Tajuddin Ahmed, Babul Mahmood, Maksudul Ahsan, Mohammad Fakruzzaman, Shahadat Hossain, Syed Iqbal, Kamal Kabir, Mohammad Fokhrul Islam, Sabhana Islam, Tina Kabir, Paresh Hazra, Rea Kelly, Babli Keshari, Biplab Mandal, Janice Arnott, Jahangir Hossain, Kali Prasanna, Laila Sharmeen, Yuki Odakura, Gary O. Burt and Getachew Tadesse, among others.

Of the participating painters, Tajuddin Ahmed, Babul Mahmood and Mohammad Fokhrul Islam are recognised in our art milieu.

Tajuddin Ahmed is known for his nonfigurative and symbolic paintings. At the exhibition, he portrays the changing city, nostalgia and socio-economic structure in an emblematic approach. He has also added some mythological forms and architectural shapes to the painting.

Late Mohammad Fokhrul Islam's monochromic images present a pensive journey. At the exhibition, his work on display has been done on paper with print ink. The artist has used ink and mustard oil to create his mysterious cosmic subjects and metaphysical landscapes. The artist unintentionally depicts gloomy sunsets, silent woods, sprawling deserts, tornados, cyclones and more. The arrangements of enormous dots and geometric forms (particularly vertical, horizontal and crisscrossing lines) create a sense of aestheticism. The painter died last year.

Babul Mahmood's paintings usually feature bold colours, forms of different objects like kite, spinning top (Latin), fish and "natai". Sturdy brush strokes and restrained expression are also two significant traits of his acrylic-based paintings. He has concentrated on the theme of childhood and has tried to capture the theme in different compositions and semi-realistic objects. He is an experimental painter and has identified himself inevitably with the cultural heritage of Bangladesh.

The artist told the correspondent over the telephone. "All the way through my journey as an artist, I have concentrated on themes like childhood dreams, nostalgia, the underwater world and diverse social calamities. Childhood nostalgia is one of my beloved subjects."

Kamal Kabir is an introverted painter. He particularly concentrates on the underwater world. He submerges himself deep in a world of tranquility. Fish are the predominant aspects of his works. His canvas

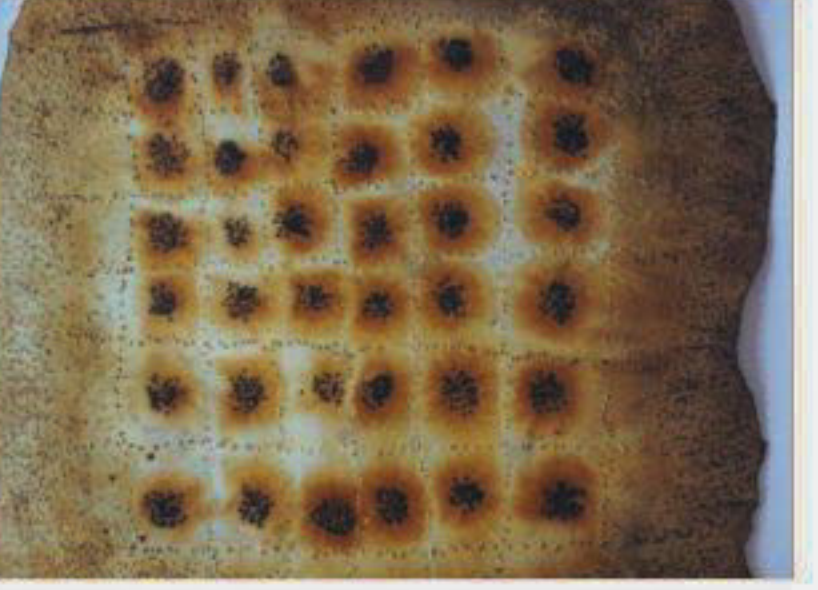


(Clockwise from top): Paintings by Babul Mahmood, Mohammad Fokhrul Islam and Tajuddin Ahmed.

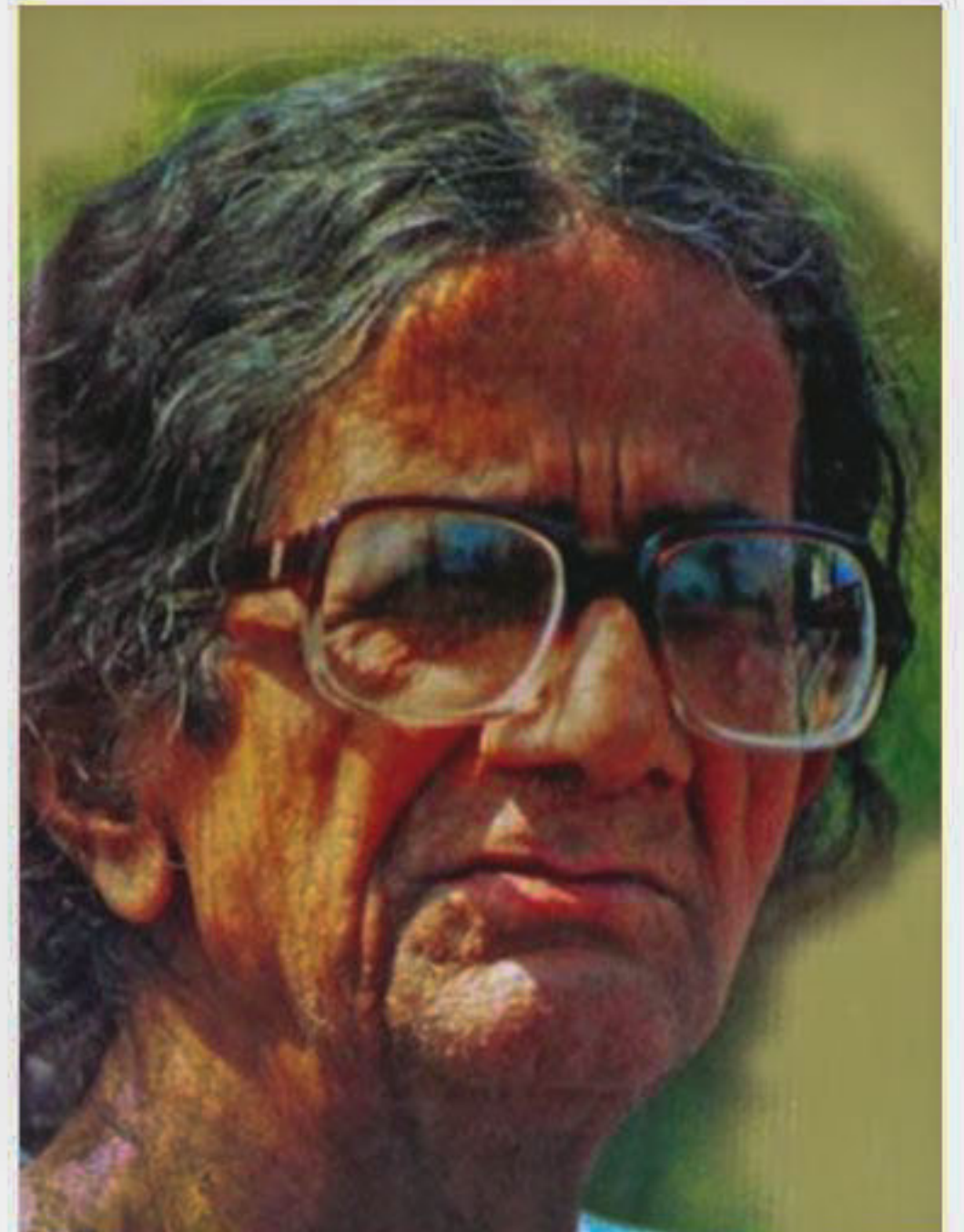
Group show in Toronto

is a space where rich texture and thick colour join into one another. Sometimes, the fish on his canvas seem to be placed at varied angles. A sense of wonder consequently takes over the viewer's imagination.

Bangladeshi painter-printmaker Mohammad Fakruzzaman currently lives in London. The artist regularly visits Dhaka and is well informed about the progress of and changing trends in the local art scene. However, the artist has confined himself to using more or less one hue on each canvas. His works highlight simple compositions; forms are reposed. He often uses flat forms that are given volume and dimension by textured areas created around them. Fakruzzaman simply wants to create colour-based full-fledged composition patterns. Use of space is a vital feature of his works. He meticulously creates space that denotes loneliness and tranquility.



The exhibition ends on September 16.



Honouring a master painter Narail celebrates SULTAN UTSAB-2013

PONUEL S BOSE, Narail

Marking the 90th birth anniversary of illustrious artist SM Sultan, a four-day Sultan Utsab-2013 began yesterday at Sultan Mancha in Narail municipality area of the district.

Jointly organised by SM Sultan Shishu Charu-O-Karukola Foundation, Bengal Foundation and Sultan Foundation and sponsored by Banglalink, the celebration runs from August 29 to September 1.

A traditional boat race at Chitra River with the participation of about 50 boats from different districts was held yesterday.


The schedule of the festival includes an art competition, children's art camp, Indo-Bangla Art Camp, discussions on Sultan's life, cultural shows and art gallery exhibition. Cultural shows are being organised by local and well-known artistes from Dhaka every evening.

Marking the event, the Sultan Mancha premises and Shishu Shargo of Masimdia village were a festive look. Bimanesh Chandro Biswas, member secretary of SM Sultan Shishu Charu-O-Karukola Foundation estimates a footfall of thousands of people from different areas of the district and country and even neighbouring countries. He adds that a team of six artists – four from India and two from Nepal – have arrived to join the programme.

Today's festivities will be inaugurated by chief guest Hawlader Mohammad Rokibul Bari, Deputy Commissioner-in-charge, Narail, also President of Sultan Foundation.

The festival is a fitting tribute to legendary artist SM Sultan. Sultan's paintings have been exhibited alongside masters such as Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali, George Braque, Paul Klee and others. He was awarded the Ekushey Padak (1982) for his outstanding contribution to the cultural movement and Independence Award (1993) by the Bangladesh Government. According to art critics, Sultan was perhaps the most enigmatic painter of Bangladesh in contemporary times.

REMEMBERING NOORJEHAN MURSHID



A CORRESPONDENT

"Celebrating life: 10th death anniversary of Noorjehan Murshid – Gahi Jiboner Joyoagan -- rejoice in the wonder of life" is the commemorative theme of the 10th death anniversary of a Bangla Renaissance Woman, Noorjehan Murshid (May 22, 1925 - September 1, 2003).

With the remembrance of Noorjehan Murshid, a generation of nation builders, torch bearers and visionaries tried to shape society and create a fertile ground where their children and grandchildren could flourish and thrive socially and intellectually.

On September 1, a programme of discussion on her writings on 'Bangladesh and culture', followed by a presentation of her life and works through poetry, music and recitation, has been organised by Noorjehan Murshid Smriti Parishad at 4:30pm at the Shilpakala Academy's National Music and Dance Centre Auditorium. The event will be chaired by Professor Dr. Serajul Islam Choudhury, the president of the Parishad. Cultural and social personalities Shamsuzzaman Khan, Selina Hossain, Kamal Lohani, Asaduzzaman Noor, MP, M. Hamid and Shama Rahman, among others, will participate. A compilation of articles on her, also titled "Gahi Jiboner Joyoagan", brought out by the Smriti Parishad, will also be released that day. The programme is open to all.

COLLECTIONS

Rahul Anand A man in quest of sounds



Rahul Anand with (clockwise from top) the Bodhran, the 'rainmaker' and the 'chondro-baan'.

FAHIM FERDOUS

Rahul Anand is a known face of those who have been connected with the cultural scene of Dhaka for some time. This ever-smiling, slightly eccentric man – the lead vocal of folksy-fusion collective "Joler Gaan" is best known for playing and designing literally all sorts of instruments.

At his little studio in Rupnagar, where he says he has one third of his collection

of musical instruments, he talks about his passion. "I used to collect instruments – mostly toys – from my very early school days. I used to go to village fairs and collect them. My relatives knew of my hobby and whenever they went somewhere, they would bring something for me. It was only in college that I realised that playing a musical instrument – flute was my primary passion -- was considered special, and I started 'taking care' of my collection." He cannot specifically tell how many instruments he owns; but when he shows the 'pianica' (also known as 'melodica') and says he has five of them now, or that his hand-cymbal collection roughly has 50 pairs, we get an idea. He bought his first

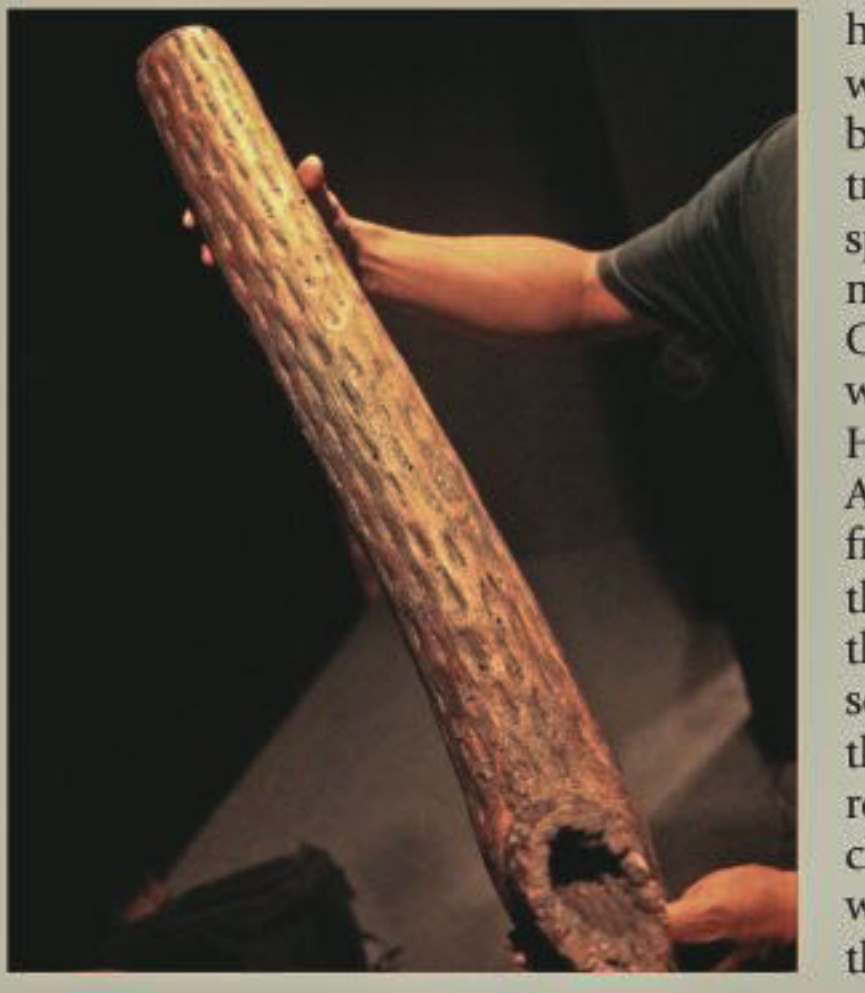
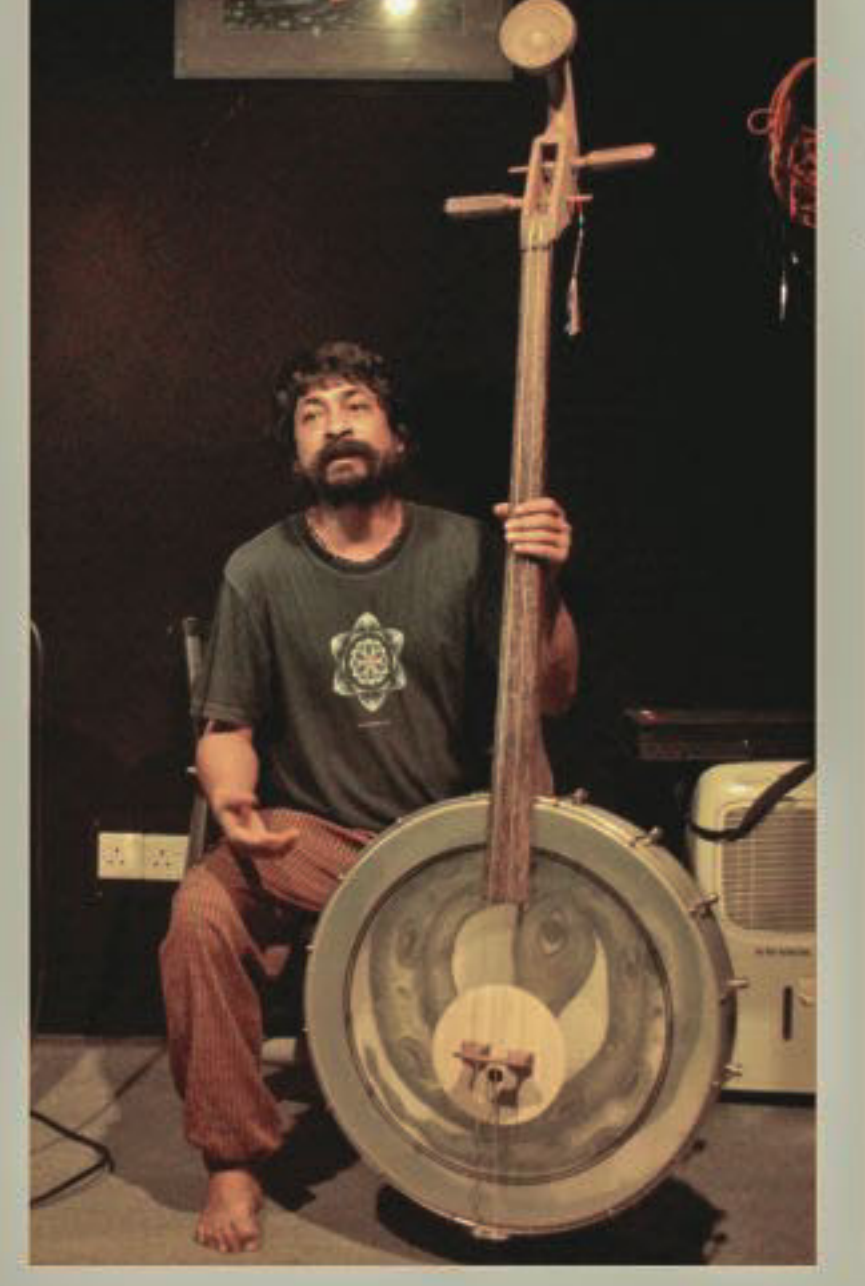
'pianica' from a guy who came to Charukala (Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University) where Rahul was a student. He sat the guy down with a friend and went in quest for the 1500 taka that the instrument would cost. He eventually collected the money in fragments from his friends – who were happy to help him acquire it. He later found out that the instrument was a gift to a dignitary from Bangladesh from a tour of Japan.

As he collected instruments, Rahul's knack of the finding out and playing the sounds they produce also grew. One of his most prized possessions is a 'dotara', the frame of which was made from a 'neem' tree that he wanted to make an instrument for seven years. When wood from the tree was sold without notifying him, he tracked down three hands to which the wood changed hands, and bought it. It was the tree where his theatre troupe used to rehearse, and he had a special connection to it. It is the last one made by famous 'dotara' player Abinash Chandra Sheel, the tuning knobs of which are crafted by noted artist Tejas Halder Josh. The 'rainmaker' – a Latin American tribal instrument that is made from a dried out hollow cactus where the thorns are pushed inside the body and the inside is filled with pebbles and seeds of various weights and sizes, and the ends are sealed. When it is tilted, the rolling pieces through the thorny obstacles create a surreal sound of rain and wind. Rahul is currently in possession of three rainmakers, all of which give a

different timbre of sound.

At one point, Rahul began to design musical instruments, to cut down on dependency of plugging in an instrument electronically. The 'chondro-baan' was made as a substitute of an acoustic base, with a body shaped like an oversized banjo, played like a double-bass on a 'fretless' board with strings taken from shark-hunting nets. The 'noyon-tara' has a body like a 'dotara', eight nylon and steel strings, and a bridge made of animal bone. He bought an 'oud' from Cairo, Egypt once, but its neck and fret broke off in an accident. He replaced it with a guitar fret, flattened the pear-shaped body from behind for easy of holding, rearranged its strings, and gave it a new name 'mondola'. He has shaped and cut chunks of wood-plank to 'tune' them, made a small gong-like plate from bell-metal (Kasha) which plays itself when he blows his horns – one of them from a mountainous bovine from the Himalayas.

While on one hand his instruments include dried 'krishnachura' seeds as shakers and handmade children's toys from village fairs, at the other end are the likes of Irish hand-drum Bodhran, Latin American triangle to a ceramic-and shell body Egyptian Darbuka drum, the famous Scottish smallpipe, the Shaw whistle. An entire tour through his collection would probably take a couple of days at end, and he has to go out, so we wrap up the adda, satisfied despite the incompleteness.



THE WEEKENDER

Family, friends and travel on Mosharraf Karim's list

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

One of the most popular actors of our time, Mosharraf Karim's schedule is as hectic as it gets, but he still finds time for himself when he needs to. The actor shared his weekend and leisure plans with The Daily Star.

What is your idea of an ideal holiday?

Mosharraf: A perfect holiday is not only an absence from the duty but also a complete nothingness of job in the mind. A relaxation should

be in effect in the brain, or it is not an actual retreat.

Have you had such a holiday in recent times?

Mosharraf: Sadly, no. I've been waiting for something like it for a long time though.

How is your time of leisure -- however little -- passed?

Mosharraf: I usually spend time with my mother, wife and nieces at home. If the holiday is for one day or two, I try to catch up with my friends too.

And what would you plan if a holiday is longer in duration?

Mosharraf: In that case, I plan to

go abroad to spend my holiday.

Do you engage in household chores?

Mosharraf: Cleanliness is something that is very important to me. So, when I'm at home, I try to clean up my house.

Favourite holiday destination?

Mosharraf: Obviously, this is Nagarkot of Nepal. It's the first place I'd go if I have the time.

What are your vacation destinations of choice in the country?

Mosharraf: Cox's Bazaar and Rangamati. Both the mountains and the ocean call to me, so I love spending time here.



NEWS bytes



Venice film festival opens with GRAVITY

Oscar-winning actors George Clooney and Sandra Bullock have helped launch the 70th Venice Film Festival with their 3D sci-fi thriller "Gravity".

The Hollywood duo was joined by the film's Mexican director Alfonso Cuaron at Wednesday's world premiere. Shot in 3D, "Gravity" tells of two astronauts who are cast into deep space when debris destroys their shuttle.

Nicolas Cage, Matt Damon, Zac Efron and Scarlett Johansson are among the other stars expected over the next 10 days at the festival.

Italian director Bernardo Bertolucci heads this year's competition jury, with members including Star Wars actress Carrie Fisher and British filmmaker Andrea Arnold.

For the first time, two documentaries are up for the Golden Lion: Erol Morris's "The Unknown Known: The Life and Times of Donald Rumsfeld", and "Sacro GRA", a film about Rome's ring road.


Source: BBC

NEW RELEASES

Adho Shur
Adho Shura
Solo album of Nazrul Sangeet by Layesta Bashir
Source: G-series



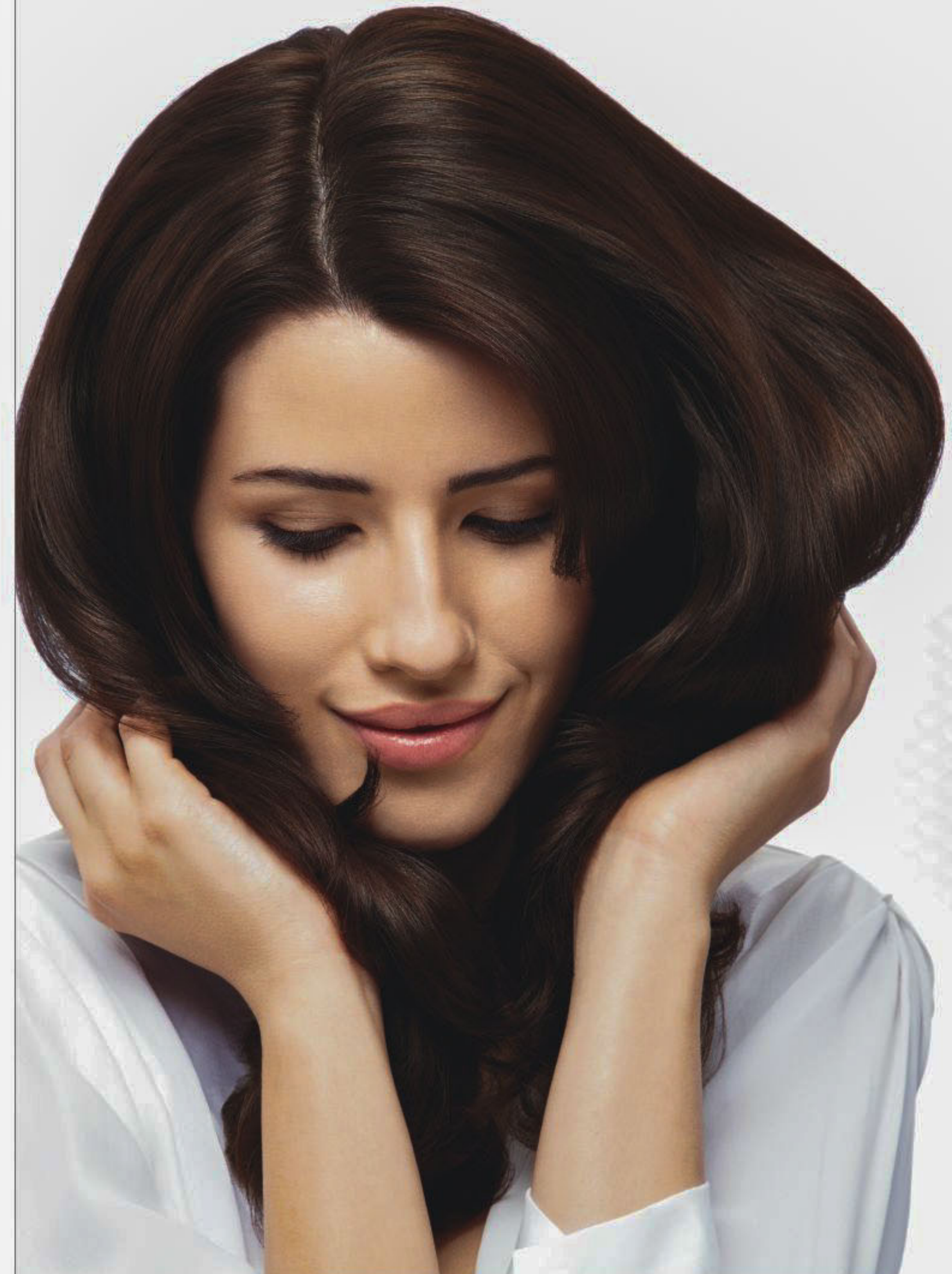
Amar Akash Purotai
Solo album by Lutfur Hasan
Source: Laser Vision



Jadur Shahor
Album of the band Chirkutt
Source: G-series



Rajkonna
Mixed album
Source: CD Choice

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