

**WHAT'S ON**  
**Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan**  
 Organiser: Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad  
 Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium, Dhanmondi  
 Date: Aug 29-31; Time: 6pm



**Street Show of Doodles**  
 Artist: Mustapha Khalid  
 Palash  
 Venue: Hotbread, R-11, Banani, Dhaka  
 Date: Aug 6-9pm  
 Time: 7pm-10pm



**Musical Soiree**  
 Artist: Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya  
 Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan 1  
 Date: Aug 31; Time: 6:30pm



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Artist: Ganesh Haloi  
 Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H-42, R-16, Dhanmondi  
 Date: Aug 28-Sep 8  
 Time: 12-8pm



**Solo Water-colour Exhibition**  
 Artist: Shahnoor Mamun  
 Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi  
 Date: Aug 23-Sep 6  
 Time: 3-9pm



# The agonies of war heroines

## Komola Collective stages Birangona: Brave Woman

SAURAV DEY

Sometimes a presentation becomes so strong that it serves the purpose of a million words. That is what happened on the small stage of the Liberation War Museum on August 29 evening, when Komola Collective staged the R&D show of their latest production, "Birangona: Brave Woman."

The show, depicting the life sketches of Birangonas or war heroines, dug up the story of sheer horror that scores of women had to go through, during nine months of the liberation war. One of the biggest strengths of the plot was presenting Birangonas as individuals rather than categorising them as war women. The play in a realistic way portrayed the life of the Birangona — her childhood, personal life, agony and the nightmares she passed through.

Powerful acting on the stage, along with realistic shadow-work and animation in the background accompanied by a multimedia documentary added life to the script to bring tears in the eyes of the Birangona women present during the performance.

Excellent background scores and near-perfect lighting added on to create the atmosphere so that the audience felt the agonies of those women, who lost everything and endured unbearable physical and psychological torture for the country.

The strongest part of the play was definitely the performance. Leesa Gazi excelled herself — a bold and natural performance



Excellent use of light and shadow made "Birangona" a powerful production.

did justice to the play. Since it was scripted in English, it was a little difficult to assume whether those women, sitting in the front row understood anything. But the natural acting brought tears in their eyes; one of them even fell sick at the flashbacks of the horror being visualised in front of her eyes.

The play showed that Birangonas are women; they are our mothers, and many of them are also freedom fighters. The research and development show was not

open for general audience, as the troupe will go through different experiments based on feedback from the selected audiences. The production will open in November and is intended to be staged in UK.

The play is scripted by Dr. Samina Lutfá, directed by Filiz Ozcan with concept and research by Leesa Gazi. Caitlin Abbott was in charge of stage design and animation, while Fahmida Islam did videography and Nasirul Haque Khokon was on lighting design.

"Birangona: Brave Women" is a power-



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

ful, natural production; no artificial or unnecessary distracted the audience at any point in the performance. These kinds of plays need to be done more and staged across different parts of the country so that Birangonas get their due honour and be recognised as freedom fighters. Komola Collective certainly deserves a tip of the hat for bringing forth the ignored part of history in the form of a piece of art.

## Duet art exhibition at Bengal Art Lounge

A CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Art Lounge in Gulshan has organised a duet art exhibition titled "Automated Subjectivity", featuring the works of Mustafa Zaman and Rafiqul Shuvo. The exhibition was inaugurated on August 22. Bangladeshi expatriate painter Monirul Islam and Professor Salimullah Khan jointly inaugurated the exhibition. Around five installations, four video arts three sculptures, several prints and drawings are on display at the exhibition.

Mustafa Zaman's works are distinctive. He has taken photos from magazines, placed tracing papers on them, and dribbled sketches on the sheet. Expression of the philosophical movement is the main theme in his works. His works introduce a fantasy world where logic doesn't exist.

Rafiqul Shuvo is a promising artist. He completed his Master's from the Department of Sculpture, Faculty of Fine Art, Dhaka University. He spent one year at the Beacon House, National University in Pakistan, under SAF [South Asian Foundation] scholarship. He has, over the last years participated in several exhibitions at home and abroad.

The exhibition will continue till September 2.

## NEWS bytes

### Douglas and Zeta Jones "take time apart"

Hollywood actors Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta Jones "are taking time apart" after 13 years of marriage, it has been confirmed. The actress's publicist told the BBC the couple had taken the decision in order to "evaluate and work on their marriage". Douglas, 68, and Swansea-born Zeta Jones, 43, married in 2000 after meeting in France two years earlier. They have two children - Dylan, 13, and Carys, 10.

The couple share the same birthday, September 25, and met at the Deauville Film Festival in France in 1998. Douglas, whose films include "Wall Street" and "Basic Instinct", recently made his post-cancer return to the big screen playing Liberace in the biopic "Behind The Candelabra".

Zeta Jones, an Oscar-winner for her role in "Chicago", is currently starring alongside Dame Helen Mirren and Bruce Willis in popcorn action film "Red 2".

Source: BBC

## A grand event for Tagore artistes and enthusiasts

### JRSSP holds music conference at Chhayanaut



Artistes render a chorus. PHOTO: ATL AAKASH

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad (JRSSP) has organised a three-day (August 29-31) Tagore music conference at the main auditorium of Chhayanaut Shangkriti Bhaban. Veteran Tagore singer and teacher Nirmal Kumar Dasgupta of Patuakhali inaugurated the 32nd annual session-2013 on Thursday evening.

With a choral performance of bodhon sangeet "Sundar-er Bondhon Nishthur-er Haat-e Ghuchabe Ke", the opening day's programmes began where a number of artistes across from the country performing solo and choral songs, along with poetry recitations and dances.

Tagore singers always seem to pray to their inner souls through serenading the very song "Aguner Paroshmoni Chho(n)yao Pran-e". This time too, the Tagore preachers did the same while lighting mangol-pradip. General Secretary of JRSSP Sohrab Uddin delivered the welcome address while president of the organisation Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui presided over the inaugural. Chhayanaut President Dr. Sanjida Khatun and dance troupe Nritya Nandan's director Sharmila Banerjee were present at the opening.

Choreographed by Sharmila Banerjee, artistes of Nritya Nandan danced to the Tagore song "Amar Mukti Aloye Aloye". Artistes from the music department of "Jatiyo Kobi Kazi Nazrul Islam University" rendered several choruses. A spirited performance of the song "Shongkoter O Bihbolata Hoiyona Mriyomaan" by them, reminded us once again of standing upright in the face of any national crisis. Elocutionist Golam Sarwar recited at the event. Among others, Semanti Manjuri, Aklima Era, Amol Ghosh, Pratik Endo, Animesh Bijoy, Abu Sayeed and Bishwajit Sen performed solos on the opening day.

Marking the conference, some 350 contestants took part in the competition in three categories - Shishu, Kishore and Sadharon. Apart from the first, second and third placed contestants, 'Ananyaman' or the best performer in each category received certificates at the conference. Noted Tagore artiste Mita Huq conducted the certificate-giving ceremony.

Music competitions along with rendition, recitation and dance performances marked both second and third day's programmes, while declaration of Rabindra Padak and Gunijan Sammanona will be handed over today (August 31). Professor Salahuddin Ahmed is receiving the award this year. Litterateur Syed Shamsul Haq will grace the concluding day's programme as chief guest.

## Shillong Chamber Choir to rock music lovers IGCC to organise concert this week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) in Dhaka is organising a grand musical concert featuring live music by the members of "Shillong Chamber Choir" at Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium, Mirpur in the capital on September 6.

The troupe, arguably the top exponent from India of choir music that has obtained world reputation, will also perform at Sylhet Auditorium, Sylhet on September 8.

Shillong Chamber Choir was founded in 2001 by Neil Nongkynrih in Shillong, India. Nongkynrih studied at the Guild Hall School of Music and Trinity College, London, and thereafter worked as a concert pianist for 13 years in Europe, before returning to Shillong in Meghalaya and starting the choir with local youth.

They made their debut performance at Pinewood Hotel in Shillong in January 2001, and have continued performing ever since.

The multi-genre choir shot to fame after it won the reality TV show, "India's Got Talent" in October 2010 on Colors TV for its performances of western chorals as



well as choral-style revamps of Bollywood classics. They also performed at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi for the visiting US President Barak Obama and Michelle Obama at the Presidential Banquet during their State visit to India in November 2010.

Their Christmas Album in 2011 became the highest selling in India for non-cinematic music. The Choir's versatility ranges from performances with the Vienna Chamber Orchestra and the Fitz William Quartet to collaborations with well known icons like Amitabh Bachchan for the opening of Kaun Banega Crorepati (Season 6). The troupe has performed extensively in India and Europe, the UK, Canada,

the USA and South East Asia.

Today, Shillong Chamber Choir has 25 members including 15 singers, and other musicians and soloist, apart from conductor Nongkynrih. The choir's repertoire includes works of western classical music, including Handel, Bach, Gershwin and Mozart, from hits by rock group Queen, and Khasi folk songs and opera as well Bangla songs.

Bangladeshi music lovers can go free to the grand music concerts by sending an SMS to 6969 writing IGCC< Space> Name <Space> e-mail id to receive free entry E-Ticket on email. Free e-tickets will also be available on [www.archiana.com/iccr/](http://www.archiana.com/iccr/).

**NEW POND'S**  
age miracle

Look up to **10 years\*** younger.  
With Intelligent Pro-Cell Complex

\*With regular use.

FORMULATED BY POND'S INSTITUTE