

WHAT'S ON

150th Birth Anniversary of DL Roy
 Venue: National Museum, Shahbag
 Date: Sep 6-7
 Time: 5:30pm



Contemporary Film Screening
 Venue: International Cultural Archive (Lift-5), National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
 Date: Sep 2-8, Time: 6pm



Grand Musical Concert
 By Shillong Chamber Choir
 Organiser: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre
 Venue: Mirpur Indoor Stadium, Dhaka
 Date: Sept 6; 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 Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi
 Date: Aug 23-Sep 6
 Time: 3-9pm




Ustad Momtaz Ali Khan REMEMBERED

PHOTO: ATL AAKASH

Discussion and musical programme held

Marking the 23rd death anniversary of Ustad Momtaz Ali Khan, Lokangan Sangskritik Sangathan organised a memorial programme featuring discussion and music performance at Shawkat Osman Memorial auditorium of Central Public Library on August 31.

Noted poet Asad Chowdhury graced the occasion as chief guest while director general of Bangladesh Betar, Kazi Akhtar Uddin Ahmed was present as special guest. Daughter of Ustad Momtaz Ali Khan and noted folk singer, Rupu Khan reminisced on her father. President of Lokangan Sangskritik Sangathan, Narayan Chandra Sheel presided over the discussion.

"Culture and music help me understand myself; help understand a society, a country and humanity. I can feel the rain and river afresh through music. I propose that Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Bangla Academy publish biographies of legendary singers -- Abbasuddin Ahmed, Abdul Alim and Ustad Momtaz Ali Khan," said Asad Chowdhury.

A cultural programme followed where artistes of

Lokangan Sangskritik Sangathan performed songs composed by Ustad Momtaz Ali Khan. "Bangladesh-er Mati" and "Ei Je Dunia" were two choral numbers while Khagendra Nath Sarkar, Anupama Acharya and Shameem Hossain rendered solos -- "Amar Bondhur Naye Ore Neel Badam", "Agey Janinai Rey Doyal" and "Ujan Gang-er Naiya" respectively.

Among others, Narayan Chandra Sheel, Rupu Khan, Md. Rahmatullah, Shyamal Kumar Paal, Manju Saha and Nipa Sarkar performed solos.

Inspired by his father Afsar Ali Khan's gramophone records, Ustad Momtaz Ali Khan went to Calcutta (now Kolkata) to receive a five-year tutelage on classical music under Padmabhusan Ustad Nessar Hossain Khan. He also took lessons in classical music from Ustad Zamir Uddin Khan, Ustad Mohammad Hossain Khasru and Ustad Ayet Ali Khan. Momtaz Ali Khan went to Shantiniketan in 1934 on Tagore's invitation.

With the essence of Bengal's timeless folk trend in his heart, Ustad Momtaz Ali Khan took pen and dotara in hand to create beautiful compositions including "Chara Gachhey Phool Phuitachey" and "Gun Gun Gun Gaan Gahiya."

Adieu, Dr. Samuel Berthet

Musical farewell held at AFD

ZAHANGIR ALOM

It was an evocative evening for this correspondent to attend Dr. Samuel Berthet's farewell programme at Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD) on August 30. I was happy meeting Samuel after a long time; at the same time, my heart was filled with sorrow that we Bangladeshis -- especially the people of Chittagong -- are bidding adieu to a pleasing cultural personality, a Tagore exponent and real friend of Bangladesh who made a cultural bridge bringing forth the exquisite artistic milieu and cultural elements of Bangladesh, Shantiniketan, India and France.

During Berthet's five year tenure (2008-2013) as the director of Alliance Française de Chittagong (AFC), the port city teemed with various vibrant cultural programmes, be it art or photography exhibitions, classical music, dance or fashion shows. Paris-based Bangladeshi mime maestro Partha Pratim Majumder introduced me to Berthet while The Daily Star Adommo Chattagram Festival was held last year.

I was amazed to see AFD director Olivier Litvine's saying goodbye to Berthet with musical performances at the programme. Olivier's deputy Jérôme Charbonneau's farewell too came along at the same musical session.

With guitar in hands, Litvine set off the event with the French number "Les Copains D'abord" (friends first) by Georges Brassens. The artiste next performed one of his favourite songs "Missing You", by Irish singer Christy Moore. His next offering was a recital of jazz guitar on a minor blues scale. A Bob Dylan song "All Along the

Watchtower" came next and the singer wrapped up his part with swaying the small crowd with the song "Ah Si j'avais un Franc" by Boris Vian.

Bangladeshi singer Mizan also performed several songs including a French one "A Cause D'elle" by Alain Souchon.

In a spontaneous comment Berthet said, "It is nice to see the teachers of French in Dhaka together as a big family smiling, playing music and singing songs. There are different generations of teachers in an extremely warm

while digging through the late photographer's archives at his house in Rome, Italy. Later, a unique exhibition titled "Tagore, the Universal Message", was held at AFC, AFD, ICCR Delhi, Tagore Centre in Kolkata and Shantiniketan, organised in association with the French Embassy and the Harsharan Foundation, showcasing a selection of photographs of Tagore and Shantiniketan that were believed to be lost, but came to light in August 2010, when Berthet rediscovered them in the Alain Daniélou and Raymond



(From right): Olivier Litvine and Mizan perform for Jérôme Charbonneau and Samuel Berthet.

atmosphere filled with arts. It is great! It is a facet of this very welcoming cosmopolitan and open-minded Bangladesh. It is obviously very hard to leave Bangladesh with all my friends here and the ongoing projects. I feel like I have so much more to give. By bringing people together one can truly achieve magic in Sonar Bangla."

Berthet discovered a treasure trove of hundreds of photographs, taken by French musicologist and indologist Alain Daniélou at Shantiniketan, from 1932 to 1940,

Burnier Photo Collection (DBPC), just a few months before Tagore's 150th birth anniversary.

Berthet, who did part of his PhD in Shantiniketan, for the first time invited Shantiniketan artists of international repute, to perform in an exclusive programme titled "Milonmela" at AFC. The event jointly featured exquisite Baul singers, Binoy Banshi and his son Babul Jaldas (dhol artistes) of Chittagong, Chhau and Gotipua dancers and Kalarippayattu, a martial art of Kerala.



On the occasion of the 38th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh National Museum (BNM) organised a children's art competition at its premises on August 30. Former keeper of National Museum, Mohammad Mohsin inaugurated the event as chief guest. M Azizur Rahman, president of Bangladesh National Museum's Board of Trustees, presided over the programme. Prakash Chandra Das, director general of BNM delivered the welcome address at the programme. Around 500 students from different institutions took part in the competition. The themes of the competition were "Bangabandhu and Rural Bangla", "Portrait of Russell." and "15th August, 1975".

Pencil to paper

Children's art competition held in Narail



PONUEL S BOSE, Narail

A children's art competition was held at Sultan Mancha adjoining Narail Victoria College premises on Friday. Over 500 children from different corners of the district participated in the one hour competition, organised by SM Sultan Charu-O-Karu Foundation. The Foundation distributed colour pencils and art paper among the participants. Of the children, the organisation selected 30 children in different categories and will distribute awards at the concluding ceremony of the programme.

Sheikh Hanif, president of SM Sultan Charu-O-Karu Foundation said that this initiative would inspire a new generation of artists.

Marking the 90th birth anniversary of the great artist, a four-day Sultan Utsab-2013 began on Friday at Sultan Mancha. Sultan Shishu Charu-O-Karukola Foundation, Bengal Foundation and Sultan Foundation, sponsored by mobile operator company Banglalink jointly organised the programme.

NEWS bytes

Hugh Jackman to receive back-to-back honours

Australian actor Hugh Jackman is to be honoured at two European film festivals this month on consecutive days. The 44-year-old will first receive the Donostia award for lifetime achievement at the San Sebastian Film Festival in northern Spain on 27 September, and then travel to Switzerland to accept the Golden Icon award at the Zurich Film Festival.

Both events are screening his new drama "Prisoners", which has its world premiere next week at the Toronto Film Festival.

Jackman, star of "Les Misérables" and the X-Men films, plays a father who takes the law into his own hands when his daughter goes missing.

Source: BBC

A scene from Theatre Repertory of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy's (BSA) production of "Rudra Rabi o Jallianwala Bagh" at the National Theatre Hall of BSA on Friday. The play, written by Manzur-e-Mowla and directed by Ataur Rahman, is based on Rabindranath Tagore's momentous renouncement of Knighthood from the British government, in protest against the infamous Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar on April 13, 1919.



Eight films to watch in September 2013

From literary adaptations to recent historical dramas to 3D remakes of 75-year old classics to biopics -- of celebrated and relatively lesser-known figures, September is going to be a month packed with releases of some heavyweight films. Here's a selection of the ones to keep an eye out for:

Don Jon
 Joseph Gordon-Levitt wrote, directed and stars in this sharp satire about a modern day Don Juan with a knack for seducing women. But when the film's Jersey-boy hero meets a beautiful young woman played by Scarlett Johansson, he must curb his licentious ways. Don Jon features outstanding performances from its leading man and from Julianne Moore, and played to favourable reviews at the Sundance and Berlin film festivals.

Salinger
 JD Salinger's reclusiveness and publicity shyness have become part of his myth. The author of "The Catcher in the Rye" gave his final

interview in 1980 and later sued to prevent a biographer from reprinting his letters to friends and family. Shane Salerno's documentary sets out to find the man behind the wall of silence, featuring interviews with literary heavyweights like Tom Wolfe, EL Doctorow and Gore Vidal.

Diana
 German director Oliver Hirschbiegel narrates the last two years of the princess' life in this film starring Australian actor, Naomi Watts. The movie is based on Kate Snell's 2001 book "Diana: Her Last Love" and tells the story of Diana's relationships with the heart surgeon Hasnat Khan and Dodi Fayed.

Mademoiselle C
 Riding on the coat-tails of September's fashion weeks and 2009's "The September Issue", comes Fabien Constant's documentary about Carine Roitfeld. She spent 10 years at the helm of French Vogue and is one of fashion's most influential figures - yet unlike her US coun-



Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Scarlett Johansson in "Don Jon".

terpart, Anna Wintour, is relatively unknown outside fashion circles. The film follows Roitfeld as she puts together the first edition of her bi-annual post-Vogue publication, "CR Fashion Book".

Rush
 Screenwriter and playwright

the 1976 World Championships in Japan.

As I Lay Dying
 James Franco's adaptation of Faulkner's 1930 novel played at Cannes this year in the Un Certain Regard section, next to the main competition. The story follows the Bundren family as they traverse the Mississippi countryside to bring the body of their dead mother to her hometown for burial. Franco takes the role of the eldest son Darl and directs.

Wizard of Oz 3D
 The Technicolor classic is 75 years old this year, and Warner Bros are celebrating with a new 3D print to be shown in IMAX cinemas. It is part of a marketing campaign for the film's release on DVD and Blu-Ray and a tie-up with McDonald's - but it's a rare chance to see Dorothy and her fellow travellers in three dimensions.

IT'S TRUE!



At a very early stage in her career, Reese Witherspoon had an audition for a role in "Cape Fear", where she was supposed to meet with Robert De Niro and Martin Scorsese. However, at the time, Witherspoon didn't really know who they were. On the plane, she was talking to the man next to her about her audition, and the man started to rave to her about De Niro and Scorsese. This made her so nervous that she completely blew the audition and the role eventually went to Juliette Lewis.