

WHAT'S ON

Documentary Screening

Title: Life and Times of Rabindranath Tagore

Venue: Shilapakala Academy

Date: Oct 1

Time: 6pm



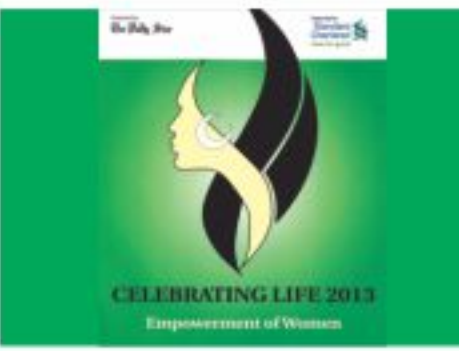
Celebrating Life Gala 2013

Venue: Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium, Mirpur

Date: October 4

Time: 6pm

(Event is invitational. Collect passes from The Daily Star Centre)



Classical Music Workshop and Film Screening

Venue: Bengal Café, Dhanmondi

Date: Sep 26- Nov 16

Time: on every Thursday (3-5pm)



Group Exhibition

Title: Unity of Souls

Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts, AJ Heights, Cha-72/1/D, Pragati Shorani

Date: Sep 27-Oct 26

Time: 10am-8pm




Autumn Book Fair

Organiser: Adorn Publication

Venue: Public Library, Shahbagh

Date: Sep 28-Oct 12

Time: 9am-8pm



NEWS bytes

'Meatballs' sequel tops US box office

Animated sequel "Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs 2" has debuted at number one in the US, taking \$35m in its first weekend. In doing so, it surpassed the original movie, which took \$30.3m during its opening week-end in 2009.

Last week's top film, "Prisoners" -- starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Hugh Jackman -- slipped to second place. Formula One movie "Rush", which depicts the rivalry between James Hunt and Niki Lauda, took third spot.

Based on a children's book, "Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs" was a breakout hit for Sony Animation in 2009. The follow-up is an original story, in which inventor Flint Lockwood must save the day after one of his inventions malfunctions, creating food-animal creatures that overtake the region of Swallow Falls.

CELEBRATING LIFE GALA '13

Celebrating Photography: 2008 - 2012

KHAN NAHIDA MOUSHUMI

The purpose of photography is not just to record history, be that unpleasant or amicable, or to capture a memorable moment, but it is also an artistic medium to evoke feelings in the viewer that transcend the mundane present. For the last few years, photographers in Bangladesh have proven their dedication and commitment through meditation and practice and to appreciate their efforts, The Daily Star and Standard Chartered Bank have been conducting an annual contest since 2008 titled "Celebrating Life", giving both budding and professional photographers room to grow. As M Yousuf Tusher, winner of the photography contest of the year 2011, puts it "I would never have got to where I am today, had it not been for this contest."

Each year, a particular theme is selected and photographers are invited to submit a maximum of three entries. From 2008 to 2012, the themes of the contest were "Bangladesh, My Love", "Celebrating Womanhood", "Indomitable Bangladesh", "Gifts of Nature & the Rivers of Bangladesh", and "Celebrating the Youth of Bangladesh" respectively. This year's theme for the contest was "Empowerment of Women", under which a large number of photographs were submitted. The top winners of the contest will be awarded this weekend, at the Gala Night of "Celebrating Life 2013" on 4 October at the Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium -- as part of the awards given in four categories: Best Lyricists, Best Photographers, Best Film Directors and Lifetime Achievement Awards.

The winner of the photography contest receives a cash prize of Tk. 100,000, the first runner-up receives Tk. 50,000 and the second runner-up wins Tk. 25,000.



The Society for Promotion of Bangladesh Art (SPBA), in association with Mutual Trust Bank Ltd. (MTB) and Maasranga Television recently organised an art exhibition and auction at MTB Centre, Gulshan in the city. The event showcased 60 paintings of 30 contemporary artists of Bangladesh. Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith inaugurated the event as chief guest. Also present were SPBA Chairman Anjan Chowdhury, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Lee Yun-jun, MTB Chairman Dr. Arif Dowla, SPBA founding chairman Elthem Kabir and members of the Board of Governors of SPBA---Mehboob Chowdhury, Syed Fahim Munaim (CEO and Chief Editor of Maasranga Television), Anis A. Khan, secretary general of SPBA, senior artists, collectors and art connoisseurs.



A solo vocal music performance by Colonel Sudarshan Bikram Rana, a military attaché of the Royal Embassy of Nepal in Dhaka, was held at the main auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum on September 28. The artiste, a lyricist and composer as well, performed six Nepali songs along with 12 Bengali songs at the event. Hari Kumar Shrestha, Ambassador of Nepal to Bangladesh, and Emdadul Hoque, chairman of Oikko limited spoke at the event, arranged by Oikko Limited.

National Film Awards 2012 finalised



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's biggest film honours, The National Film Awards, have been decided, according to multiple sources of the jury board. Shahnewaz Kakoli's "Uttorer Sur" is getting best film, while Humayun Ahmed is set to get best director for "Ghetuputro Komola". Last year's winners Shakib Khan and Jaya Ahsan are tipped to take home the prizes again for best actor and actress, for "Khoda'r Porey Ma" and "Chorabali" respectively. Khalil Ullah Khan will be honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award. "Ghetuputro Komola" is taking

home quite a few other awards, including best story (Humayun Ahmed), screenplay (Humayun Ahmed), child actor (Mamun), cinematographer (Mahfuzur Rahman Khan), music director (Emon Saha), costume (SM Mainuddin), make-up (Khalilur Rahman) and editor (Salimullah).

Apart from best actress, "Chorabali" is also claiming best actor in a negative role (Shahiduzzaman Selim), dialogue (Redoan Rony) and best sound editing (Ripon Nag). "Uttorer Sur" is also set to take best actress in a supporting role (Lucy Tripti Gomes) and a special child actor's award (Meghla). Razzak is set to win best actor in a supporting



role for "Bhalobasha'r Rong".

"Khoda'r Porey Ma" has also won best singer - male (Polash), lyricist (Milton Khondokar). Best singer - female is going to Runa Laila for "Tumi Ashbe Boley"; Emon Saha will take his second award of the year for best composer for "Pita" and best art director is going to Kalantar and Uttam Guha for "Raja Surja Kha(n)".

Information ministry sources informed that the jury board recommendations will be handed over next week to the parliamentary committee on the national film awards, following the approval of which, the National Film Awards 2012 will be held in November.

Anup Barua performs at IGCC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted Bangladeshi artiste and Chhayanaaut Guru Anup Barua performed at a solo musical soiree held recently at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) auditorium, Dhaka.

The artiste started off the event with

by Niaz Mohammad Chowdhury.

Anup Barua delves deep into the heart of every song he sings. That's why the audience encored for more; the artiste ended up performing for three hours at a stretch at the soiree. The artiste rendered ghazals -- "Hum Koyi Gham Nehi Tha" and "Pyaar Bharey" -- originally recorded by



The artiste (2-R) sings at the soiree.

a Nazrul Sangeet "Ami Pothomonjuri". As an ode to autumn, the singer rendered "Kholo Kholo Kholo Go Duar". Next was his presentation of adhunik Bangla songs including "Sundari Go" and "Jodi Kagoje Lekho Naam", originally recorded by Manny Dey and "Aj Ei Brishthir Kanna Dekhe", "Ek Photo Bish" and "Dukkho Amar", recorded

Mehdi Hassan. He also performed a Pahadhi thumri at the event.

Rendition of raga-based Bangla songs came next. Barua presented several songs including "Nishi Jegey Ghumaye Shei" (on Raga Mishra Jogi) and "Sur-e O Banir Mala Diye" (on Raga Pilu) on request. The singer also presented bandish of several ragas

prior to performing the songs. The audience also requested him to sing several tappa genres including "Boro Neshatey Porechhi Shyam-er Banshite", "Amarey Ashte Bole" and "Dekha Holey Nanodirey Bolo", originally popularised by Ramkumar Chattopadhyay.

Later, he performed one of his favourite songs, "Sharadin Tomaye Bhebe", recorded by Subir Sen, a folk fusion "Shona Bondhu Tui Amarey" and wrapped up the programme with a Nazrul Kavyageeti "Ami Chitrorey Durey Chole Jabo".

Anup Barua is one of the finest vocalists of Bangladesh. With his classical virtuosity and passion for music, he has developed a distinct style that reflects a unique blend of depth and resonance. Barua's renditions of Nazrul Sangeet, folk, adhunik Bangla songs, ghazals, and thumris are highly appreciated by music lovers.

The artiste initially trained in Hindustani Classical Vocal Music under Ustad Nirad Baran Barua and later trained at the Gandharva Mahavidyalaya in Delhi and Mumbai, India under a scholarship of the Government of India. He continues his musical training in Kirana Gharana under Ustad Mashkoor Ali Khan.

Besides teaching at Chhayanaaut, he is an instructor of Classical Music at the Bengal Foundation at Dhaka since 2003.

"The Good Road" versus "The Lunchbox" debate

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Gujarati language film "The Good Road", by debutant director Gyan Correa, was selected as India's official entry for the Best Foreign Language Film category at the Academy Awards next year.

Set in the harsh terrain of Kutch, a desert in the western Indian state of Gujarat, the film revolves around a truck driver and a couple whose child is on the run. The movie, featuring Sonali Kulkarni, Keval Katrodia and Ajay Gehi, was adjudged the best feature film (in Gujarati) at the 60th national awards.

The movie beat off competition from 21 other contenders, including "The Lunchbox", "Bhaag Milkha Bhaag", "English Vinglish", Bengali film "Shabdo" and Tamil language film "Vishwaroopam".

Chairman of the selection committee, eminent filmmaker Gautam Ghose said the Film Federation of India unanimously picked "The Good Road".

But the choice immediately set off controversy. The first voices of protest came from Ritesh Batra, director and producer of "The Lunchbox", starring Irrfan Khan and Nawazuddin Siddiqui. The film has received good reviews in Indian newspapers as well as in the festival circuit.

Anurag Kashyap, who co-produced "The Lunchbox", tweeted "first time and I really mean it, I was excited because first time we knew we had a chance... I don't know who the Film Federation of India is but it goes to show, why we completely lack the understanding to make films that can travel across borders."

Bollywood director-producer Karan Johar, who turned presenter for "The



Lunchbox", tweeted: "The Lunchbox' had every factor working in its favour, we may have lost our golden chance."

Nawazuddin Siddiqui, who plays Aslam Shaikh in "The Lunchbox", said "I was 100 per cent sure that 'The Lunchbox' is going for Oscars. It's a shock that it didn't. I have never heard of 'The Good Road'."

However, Correa was naturally overjoyed. "I can't believe it. It is a great feeling and I am recovering my breath and understanding the implications. I hope we win," said Correa.

So far in the history of Indian cinema, only three Bollywood films -- Mehboob Khan's "Mother India" (1957), Mira Nair's "Salaam Bombay" (1988) and Ashutosh Gowariker's "Lagaan" (2001) have made it to the final five nomination stage of the Oscar.

Last year, director Anurag Basu's "Barfi!", featuring Ranbir Kapoor and Priyanka Chopra, was sent as a contender but failed to make it to the top five.

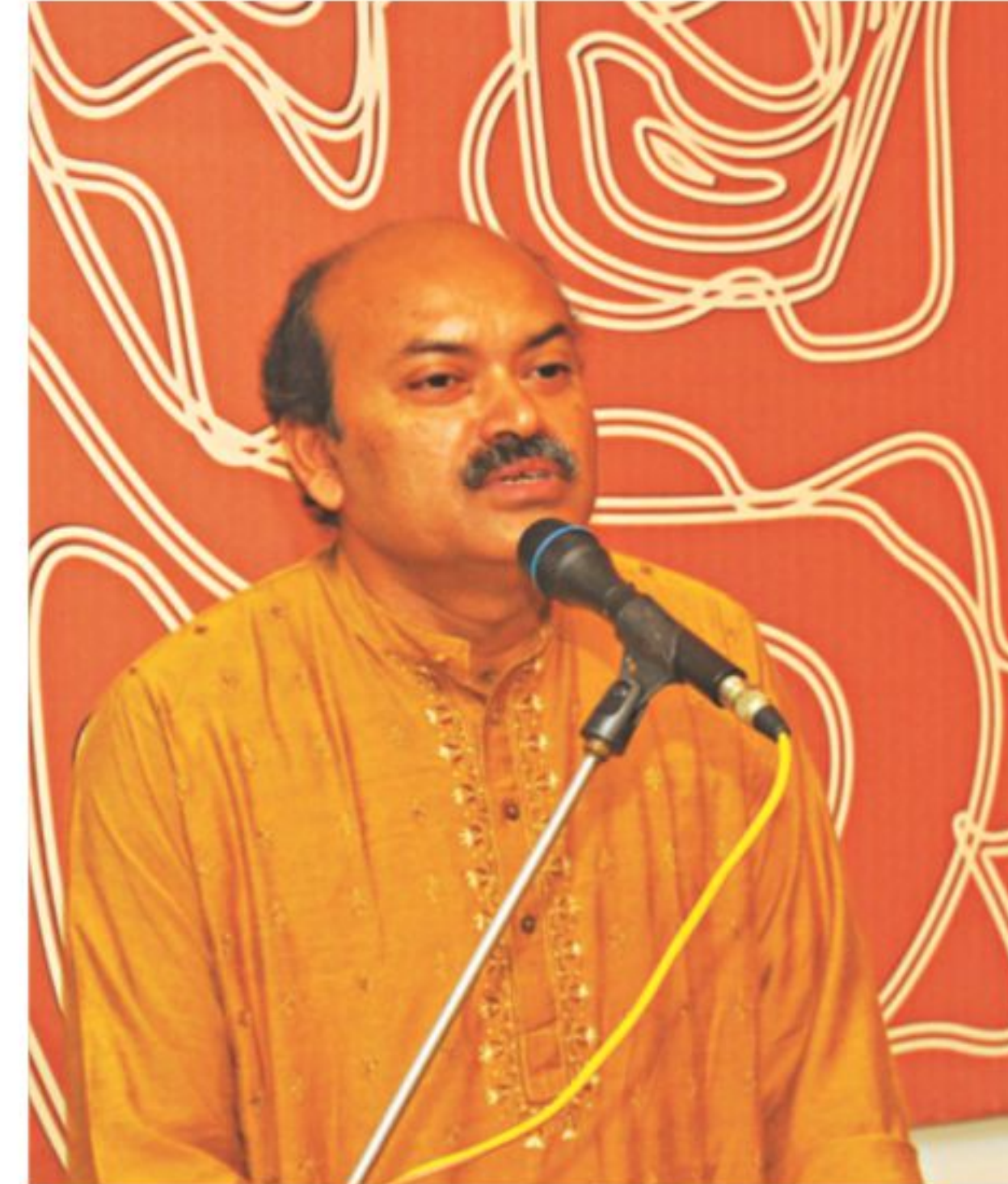
The Oscar presentation ceremony will take place in March 2014.

Classical Music workshop at Bengal Café

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bengal-ITC SRA Classical Music Festival, held last year at Dhaka's Army stadium, created a stir among artistes, music connoisseurs and enthusiasts. The festival turned out to be a grand success with a turnout of an average of 15,000 people every day. The presence of the young audience at the festival was truly inspiring too.

Considering the young artistes' and audience's curiosity and enthusiasm for classical music, Bengal Foundation has organised a three month long classical music workshop prior to the four-day Second "Bengal Classical Music Festival" scheduled to begin on November 28. The workshop, titled "Sangeet Abhyob", began on September 26 and is being held at Bengal Café in Dhanmondi on every Thursday (3-5pm) and Saturday (10am-12pm). The workshop, focusing on the sub-continental classical music history, its grammar and phrase, science, aesthetics and philosophy, will come to an end on November 16. Chhayanaaut Guru Dr. Rezwana Ali has designed the frame-



Asit Dey speaks at the programme.

work of the workshop. Anyone with interest in music can join the workshop free of charge.

Director of Bengal Foundation Subir Chowdhury began the workshop by delivering the welcome address on September 26. Later, two Chhayanaaut Gurus --Asit Dey and Rezwana Ali discussed the history of Indian classical music. Two documentary screening on Music Guru Baba Ustad Allauddin Khan and Ustad Amir Khan followed.

On the second day (September 28) Guru Asit Dey focused on Dhrupad and Khayal Gharana. Later a documentary titled "Dhrupad" was screened. Meghna Ameen will discuss on Carnatic Music on October 3.

Among others Saju Ahmed, Kamol Khalid will conduct workshops on different days highlighting classical music, dance, instrument and other aspects of music. Documentaries on classical music maestros including Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Ustad Alla Rakha, A Luminous Jewel: Pt Birju Maharaj, Pt. Bhimsen Joshi, Ustad Bismillah Khan and Pt. Ravi Shankar will be screened on deferent days of the workshop.

Channel i steps into 15th year



A CORRESPONDENT

Channel i started their journey on October 1, 1999, with the slogan "Hridoye Bangladesh", and is stepping into its 15th year of transmission today. In a press conference organised at the Channel i office, Managing Director of the channel Faridur Reza Sagar said the channel has many achievements in the last decade and a half, and they want to keep it up.

Director and Head of news, Shykh Siraj said it is because of the media that people of remote areas are now aware on many issues.

The duo also spoke on various programmes of Channel i, including TV plays, talk shows and news. They mentioned Lux-Channel i Superstar, Sera Kontho, Khude Gaanraj, Citycell-Channel i Awards and major stage shows held in foreign countries as the channel's biggest successes.

Faridur Reza Sagar also informed that the channel believes in new ideas, adding that the viewers will be treated to new programmes. A 300-episode serial, titled "Patal Puri'r Rajkanya", is coming soon on the screen, while another new serial, directed by Mahfuz Ahmed, will also begin airing soon.

Meanwhile, Channel i premises are being decorated ahead of the anniversary. Cultural presentations will be held at the channel premises all day, followed by a colourful rally in the morning.