

**WHAT'S ON**

Dance Festival  
Organizer: Chhayanaut  
Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium, Dhanmondi  
Date: Nov 8-9  
Time: 6:15pm

Photography Exhibition  
Artist: Gazi Nafis Ahmed  
Venue: EMK Center, H-5, R-27(Old), Dhanmondi  
Date: Nov 5-17  
Time: 10am-8pm

Solo Painting Exhibition  
Artist: Shabekun Nahar Noushin  
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi  
Date: Oct 25-Nov 7  
Time: 3pm-9pm

Exhibition  
Title: Exotic Jute II  
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi  
Date: Nov 1-15

Duet Exhibition  
Title: When Silence Eats Sound  
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60 Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1  
Date: Oct 30-Nov 13  
Time: 12pm-8pm

# NEWS bytes

## Television releasing commercially in Korea



A CORRESPONDENT

Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's "Television" is set to see its commercial release in Korea tomorrow. Under distribution of @9 films, it will be released simultaneously in Seoul, Busan and Daegu.

USA, China, India Korea and Hong Kong are considered the major markets for global cinema, and the commercial release of a Bangladeshi film in one of them is a step forward for Bangladeshi cinema, Farooki said.

Meanwhile, Malaysian TV giants Astro has bought the broadcast rights to the film for Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. The film is soon set to be shown on Astro TV; the channel has already interviewed Farooki in the run-up to it. "Television" is going to be screened in three more festivals in Kerala (India), Kolkata (India) and Jakarta (Indonesia) in November-December.

## Joe Cornish tipped to direct next Star Trek



British filmmaker Joe Cornish is being considered a favourite to direct the next instalment of the Star Trek franchise. It had long been presumed that JJ Abrams, the director of the first two films of the reboot, would be leaving the series to concentrate on directing "Star Wars: Episode VII" - and the new developments appear to confirm this.

Cornish initially made his name as part of the comedy duo, Adam and Joe, before releasing his debut film, "Attack the Block", in 2011. The sci-fi thriller wasn't a box-office hit but was admired by both critics and Hollywood executives. The director has, however, co-written the scripts of several high-profile action films in the past. These include Steven Spielberg's "The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn" and the forthcoming Marvel movie, "The Ant-Man", and were both written with his friend and collaborator, Edgar Wright. In recent years, Cornish's name has been linked to a host of other big-budget productions, such as "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" and "Die Hard 5".

Source: Telegraph

## RASA OF A RAGA

# Devotion, beauty and opulence of love in Raga Khamaj

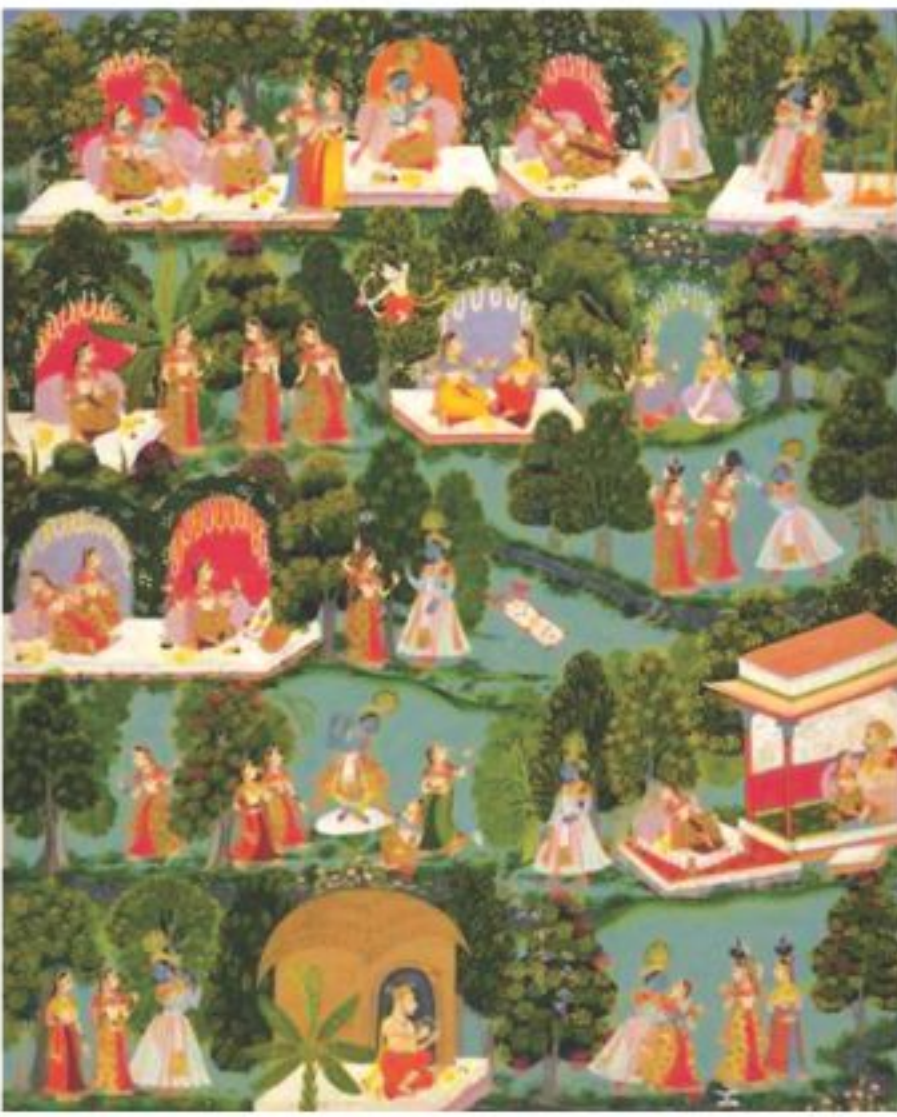
ZAHANGIR ALOM

Devotion, beauty and the opulence of love are the basis of Raga Khamaj which falls under the same *thaat*. Based on the theme, the *murki* or the ornamental beautification of the raga is formed. An artistically refined soul, performing the raga with apt devotion and bliss, can depict *shringar* rasa or the flavour of romance.

Khamaj, a *sarov-sampurna* raga, is generally performed at the second *prahar* of night. The note 'Re' is omitted on *arohana* while *komol* 'Ni' is used in *avarohana*. Its *badi swar* is 'Ga' while *sambadi swar* is 'Ni'. The maestros tactfully use the *bivadi swar kodi* 'Ma' to enhance the beauty of the raga. Its similar raga is "Tilang."

Khamaj is meant to be a complete surrender to the ultimate through the beauty of its melody. The beauty of Khamaj lies in the expression of love with the softest touch of heart. *Pukar* is expressed in an artist's rendition when her/his inner-soul weeps.

Raga Khamaj represents the love between the earthly soul (Radha) and the eternal soul (Krishna). Although expressed in tender, earthly terms, the undying love that Radha and Krishna share has philosophical underpinnings. Radha represents the devotees -- both male and female -- and Krishna represents the divine. Radha's intense love for Krishna symbolises each devotee's passionate longing for ultimate unification with the Creator. *Pukar ang* of Khamaj is noticed in *taar saptak* (highest octave) while its richness of emotions is found in



*mudara* (middle octave).

The raga has gained prominence more in the lighter forms of Hindustani Classical Music such as *bhajan*, *thumri*, *dadra*, *chhoto dhun*, *ghazal*, *tappa*, *jhula*, *chaiti* and *hori*. Yet, a few compositions in *dhruwad* and *khayal* are found as well.

Mingling tunes of the raga -- "Tilang", "Gorakh Kalyan", "Jog", "Desh", "Jhinjhoti", "Pahadi" and "Kalavati" -- with the melody of Khamaj, renowned Pandits and Ustads compose and perform the distinctive tunes of "Manjh Khamaj" in varied styles.

A Tagore song "Tomari Gehe Palichho Snehe" is set on Raga Khamaj. A *ghazal ang* composition "Uchatono Mono Ghar-e Royna," by Kazi Nazrul Islam is based on the raga. Nazrul Sangeet including "Keno

Ka(n)dey Poran Ki Bedonaye" and "Amar Kon Kuley Aj Bhirlo Tori" are also set on the raga.

Popular *ghazals* like "Faasle Aise Bhi Hongey," recorded by Ghulam Ali and "Muhabbat Karne Wale Kam Na Hongey," recorded by Mehdi Hassan are evocative of Khamaj.

Written in the 15th century by the poet Narsinh Mehta, in the Gujarati language, the *bhajan* "Vaishnav Jan Toh Tehe Kahiye" tells us about the ideals and outlooks of a "Godly Person." Vocalist Ustad Rashid Khan together with Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan on sitar recorded it. Among others, eminent singers Lata Mangeshkar, Anup Jalota and Bombay Jayashree too recorded the *bhajan*.

*Thumri* including "Shyam Sundar Banwari" (recorded by Ustad Rashid Khan), "Kaun Gali Gayo Shyam" (recorded by Pt. Chhannulal Mishra) and "Shyam Bina Nahin Chyan" (recorded by Laxmi Shankar) are based on Khamaj.

Popular Hindi film tracks--"Dil Cheez Kya Hai" (Umrao Jaan), "Mitwa" (Kabhi Alvida Na Kehna), and "Jiya Lagey Na" (Talaash) remind us of the sweet melody of Khamaj. Folk compositions including Lalou numbers "Mawla Boley Daak Roshona" and "Nigur Prem Kotha-ti Shai Ami Shudhai Kar Kachhey" and Kobial Bijoy Sarkar Songs "Amar Mon-e Menechhey" and "Ei Prithibi Jemon Achhey" are based on raga Khamaj.

Virtuoso singer Manna Dey wove the garlands of melody with his rendition of Khamaj songs "Lalita Go" and "Ami Je Jalsha Ghar-e" in pristine style.

## Attoporichoyer Shondhane-2 in Mymensingh

Painting exhibition by Zainul Shishu Charupith artists

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A weeklong painting exhibition began at Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala (art gallery) auditorium on Saturday. The exhibition titled "Attoporichoyer Shondhane-2" (In search of self-identity) organised by the art gallery will conclude on November 8.

Seventy five students of Zainul Shishu Charupith, an art school run by the art gallery, took part in the exhibition with their 102 paintings.

The paintings on nature, old Brahmaputra, six seasons, War of Liberation, Bangabandhu, and life of the common people attracted much attention.

The artists used various mediums including oil and watercolour; pen and



M Hamid visits the exhibition.

PHOTO: STAR

ink and pastel.

Of the participants, 15 artists were selected for prizes.

Md. Abdur Rouf, a lecturer of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Fine Arts Institute in Mymensingh, and artistes-Md. Kazruzzaman and Md. Habibur Rahman were the judges.

Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Mustakim Billah Faruqui inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest.

Mayor of Mymensingh municipality Ekramul Haque Titu, artist Amirul Islam; Tapon Kumar Sarker, head of Fine Arts Department of Jatiyo Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University and Press Club secretary Mir Golam Mustafa also spoke on the occasion. Director of Zainul Shishu Charupith and deputy keeper of the art gallery Dr. Bijoy Krishna Banik presided

over the inaugural session.

Director General of BTV M. Hamid also visited the exhibition on the inaugural day, among others.

The speakers said that the art school played a significant role in ferreting out young talent in the district. The creativity of the children, they added, had impressed them greatly and if the children pursued their art, Mymensingh would produce many eminent artists.

Charupith director Dr. Bijoy Krishna Banik informed that the students are taking part in art competitions arranged by different organisations, including district administration, Shilpakala Academy, Shishu Academy and World Vision, Bangladesh. Banik also said that some students of Charupith had received prizes at national level competitions.



## Elizabeth Taylor: Larger than life screen goddess

KAVITA, New Delhi

Her violet eyes and smouldering, non-attainable screen presence entranced filmgoers the world over. Equally, the delight of the paparazzi, her rocky personal life led to endless speculation about who would be next in a lineup of eight husbands and lovers while her alcoholism and drug addiction were well documented.

That was late Hollywood actress Elizabeth "Liz" Taylor, who embarked as child actress at the age of 12 in MGM's "National Velvet" (1944). The film proved hugely successful and Taylor went on to star in "Father of the Bride" (1950), "A Place in the Sun" (1951), "Giant" (1956) and "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" (1958). The winner of two Academy awards, she played a sizzling title role in "Cleopatra" (1963). In the course of its filming, she married co-star "Mark Anthony" Richard Burton. The duo acted in 11 films, including "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" (1966) which critics said was a mirror on Burton and Taylor's own volatile marriage.

From the mid-1970s, Burton made less frequent appearance in celluloid, and confined herself to the occasional TV guest appearances.

From 1985, after her long-standing friend (sometimes also labeled lover) Rock Hudson succumbed to AIDS, she became a crusader for the AIDS-afflicted. She also co-founded the American Foundation for AIDS Research and the Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation. She received numerous awards for her work with AIDS sufferers. Her acting abilities remained upfront and she received a Lifetime



One of the most celebrated couples of global cinema, Burton and Taylor in "Cleopatra" (Left); 12-year old Elizabeth Taylor in "National Velvet".

Achievement Award from the American Film Institute who named her seventh on their list of "Greatest American Screen Legends".

Social critic Camille Paglia described Taylor as "the greatest actress in film history". No exaggeration when one views some of her films such as "Butterfield 8" and "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" (Both of which fetched her Academy awards). Equally she was feted for her

enormous sex appeal.

Taylor described her three loves as Mike Todd (her deceased husband), Burton (who she married, divorced, remarried and redivorced) and jewellery.

Burton and Taylor were, without doubt, the most important celebrity couple of their time. Bon Gallela, New York photographer who had set his sights on Burton and Taylor said, "Let's

face it, they were the couple of the century. They were the duo that counted. They were the pair that everybody in the US, if not the world, looked to and chased after. They were bigger than life."

In her last years, Taylor went to seed. Alcoholism and drug addiction, along with multiple illnesses, took a heavy toll. She died of congestive heart failure in March 2011, at age 79.

## Tanvir Mokammel's "1971" to close Kolkata Film Festival



Bangabandhu's historic March 7 address is documented in "1971".

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

Director Tanvir Mokammel's mega documentary "1971" on Bangladesh's Liberation War will be the closing film in the documentary section of the Kolkata Film Festival to be held from November 11.

The director has been invited for the inauguration of the documentary section of the festival to be held at Nandan cinema complex. This will be the first time that the mega documentary by Mokammel will be screened at a film festival outside Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, Mokammel told the Daily Star that his latest feature film "Jibondhuli", based on the Liberation War, has been sent to the censor board for clearance which is expected to be granted in a couple of weeks.

"We intend to hold the premiere of the film sometime in the third week of November," he said. Mokammel will be in Kolkata throughout the duration of the festival.

## Aminul Islam Award to be conferred tomorrow

A CORRESPONDENT

Artist Aminul Islam (1931-2011) is amongst the first generation artists and a leading member of the pioneering modern art movement in Bangladesh. Islam's family has introduced the Aminul Islam Young Artist Award.

There was a nationwide call for young artists to submit their artworks in order to compete for the biennial award, which is to be given to the final two for their contribution to the arts.

On the occasion of the artist's 82nd birth anniversary tomorrow (November 7), an exhibition of the selected art works of the top ten finalists will be inaugurated on the same day at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in Dhanmondi. The two winning artists will be handed away their awards by renowned artist Murtaja Baseer. Veteran artists Syed Jahangir, Rafiqun Nabi and Ruby Islam, widow of Aminul Islam will also be present as special guests. Abul Khair, chairman of Bengal Foundation, will preside over the programme.

Selected artists are Abdullah Al Bashir, Anisuzzaman Sohel, Ashrafur Hasan, Bishwajit Goswami, Farzana Ahmed Urmi, Gopal Chandra Saha, Habiba Akhter Papia, Md. Alomgir Hassan, Ruhul Karim Rume and Shahid Kazi.

