

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

Classical Music Workshop and Film Screening

Venue: Bengal Café, Dhanmondi  
Date: Sep 26- Nov 16  
Time: on every Thursday (3-5pm) &

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

# NEWSbytes

## Star Wars release date announced



The Walt Disney Company has announced it will release the next Star Wars film on 18 December 2015. Disney bought Lucasfilm, the company behind Star Wars, from creator George Lucas last year for \$4bn. It has committed to making at least three new films in the series, one of the most successful franchises ever. Disney announced the release date as it reported a better-than-expected 12% jump in net profit for the three months to 28 September. It made a net profit of \$1.39bn during the quarter, up from \$1.24bn during the same period last year. The company also reported that its net income for the financial year to 28 September jumped 8% from a year ago to \$6.1bn. Disney is also looking at developing stand-alone films around Star Wars characters.

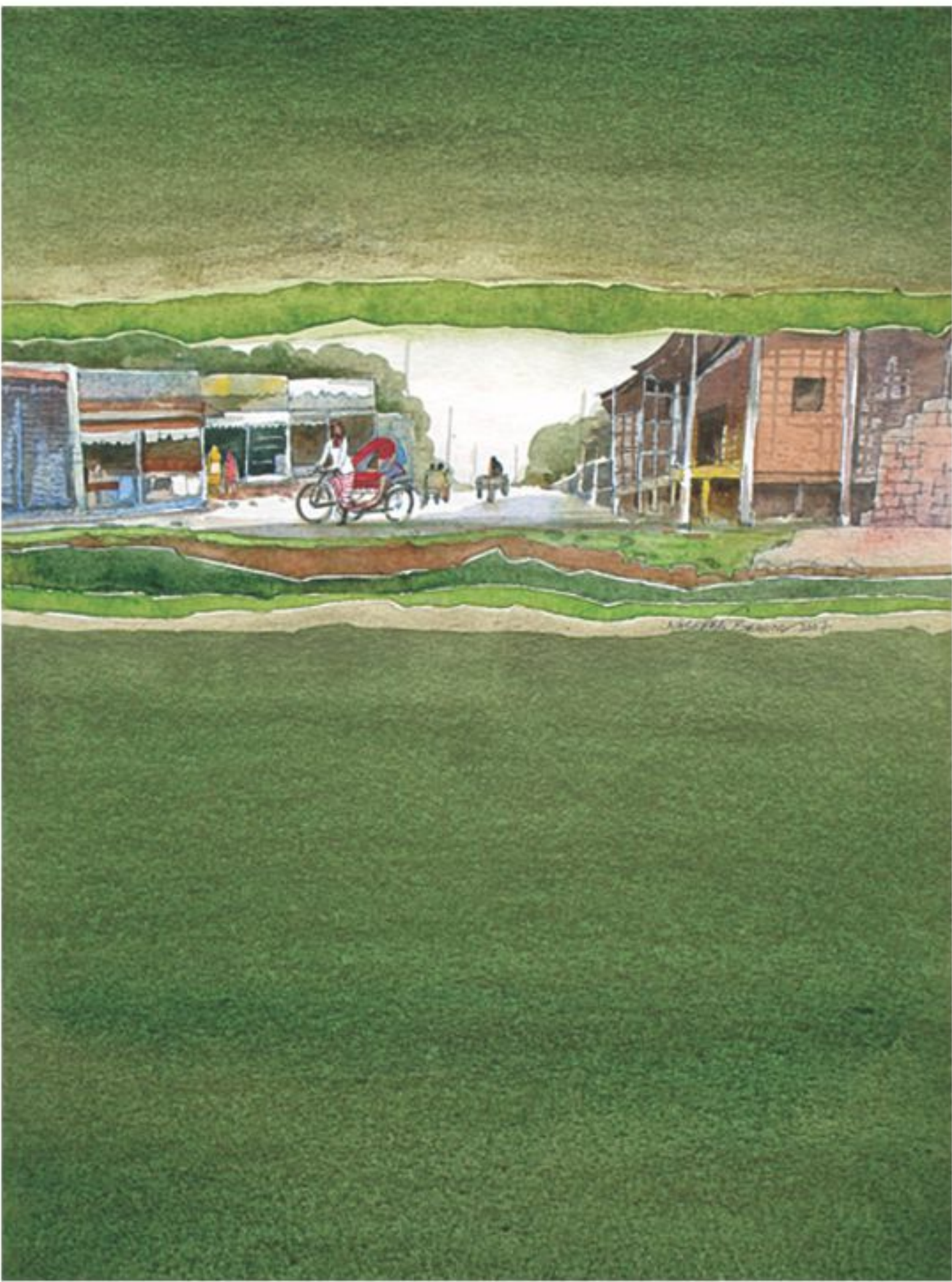
Source: BBC

## IT'S TRUE!



Salvador Dalí, the Spanish surrealist artist was fond of the “Siesta del Hidalgo” (translated literally to “The Gentleman’s nap”), brief periods of sleep. He would slide off to sleep in a chair with his arm over the side, holding a spoon over a plate on the floor. The instant he fell asleep, his hand would loosen up and the spoon would fall out and hit the plate with a clatter that woke him up again. He claimed that the brief rest worked wonders. The concept, known popularly as “power nap” today, is considered by psychologists to be an effective method of revitalising the mind.

UK-based Australian hyper-realistic sculptor Ron Mueck began his career as a model maker for children’s television and film, and moved to fine art in 1996. Mueck’s sculptures faithfully reproduce the minute detail of the human body, but play with scale to produce disconcertingly jarring visual images. He has held exhibitions of his works worldwide.



“It is nature around that inspires me and eggs me on to work incessantly,” says the artist.

## Moliere Drama festival held

### Loko Natya Dal stage "Kanjush"



A scene from the play.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

A CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe Loko Natyadal staged their much-acclaimed production “Kanjush” at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilapakala Academy on November 07 evening, as part of Moliere Drama Festival-2013. Theatre troupe Shwattik arranged the festival to celebrate their 19th anniversary and 100th staging of their theatrical production “Peigi.” Bengali adaptations of two Moliere plays -- “Kanjush” and “Peigi” -- were staged during the two days of the festival. Both of the plays are comedy -- “Kanjush” is a Bangladeshi makeover of French masterpiece “L’Avare” (“The Miser”), while “Peigi” is an adaptation of “Le Médecin malgré lui” (“The Doctor in Spite of Himself”). Eminent theatre personality Liaquat Ali Lucky has directed “Kanjush” while Kamruzzaman Tupa has directed “Peigi.”

## The return of Mashiat

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Mashiat came into the spotlight after she grabbed fourth place in the talent hunt “Lux Channel i Superstar 2010”. Soon, she was in great demand as actress, model and anchor but took a brief break from the media to focus on her studies. Mashiat has now returned to the small screen. She is now acting in a serial “Ichhadana” aired on NTV and plans to take on many other assignments in front of the camera. The artiste did her BBA at North South University, and recently gained admission to the Media Studies and Journalism Department of ULAB. Besides serials, Mashiat has been flooded with offers for single episode TV plays. Encouraged by such assignments, she strives to capitalise on her acting skills.

Mashiat hasn't made an appearance on celluloid so far. Her ambition is to act in a film based on a true story which will remain firmly in people's minds. Her first drama was “Tritiyo Purush” directed by Salahuddin Lavlu where Chanchal Chowdhury was her co-artist. The plays which earned her popularity were “Terminal”, “Chander Nejar Kono Alo Nai”, “Apon Apon Khela” “Bhetor Bahir”, “No-man Island” and “Ochena Protibimbo”. She has widened her canvas as a model and anchor. She emceed a programme “Fashion and Style” aired on Channel 9. Apart from this, she anchored “Music Jam” telecast on NTV. She also emceed “Made in Bangladesh” for a TV channel. However, her first love is acting.



## An artist par excellence

### Nasreen Begum's love affair with Oriental Art and beyond

ZAHANGIR ALOM

(Continued from yesterday...)

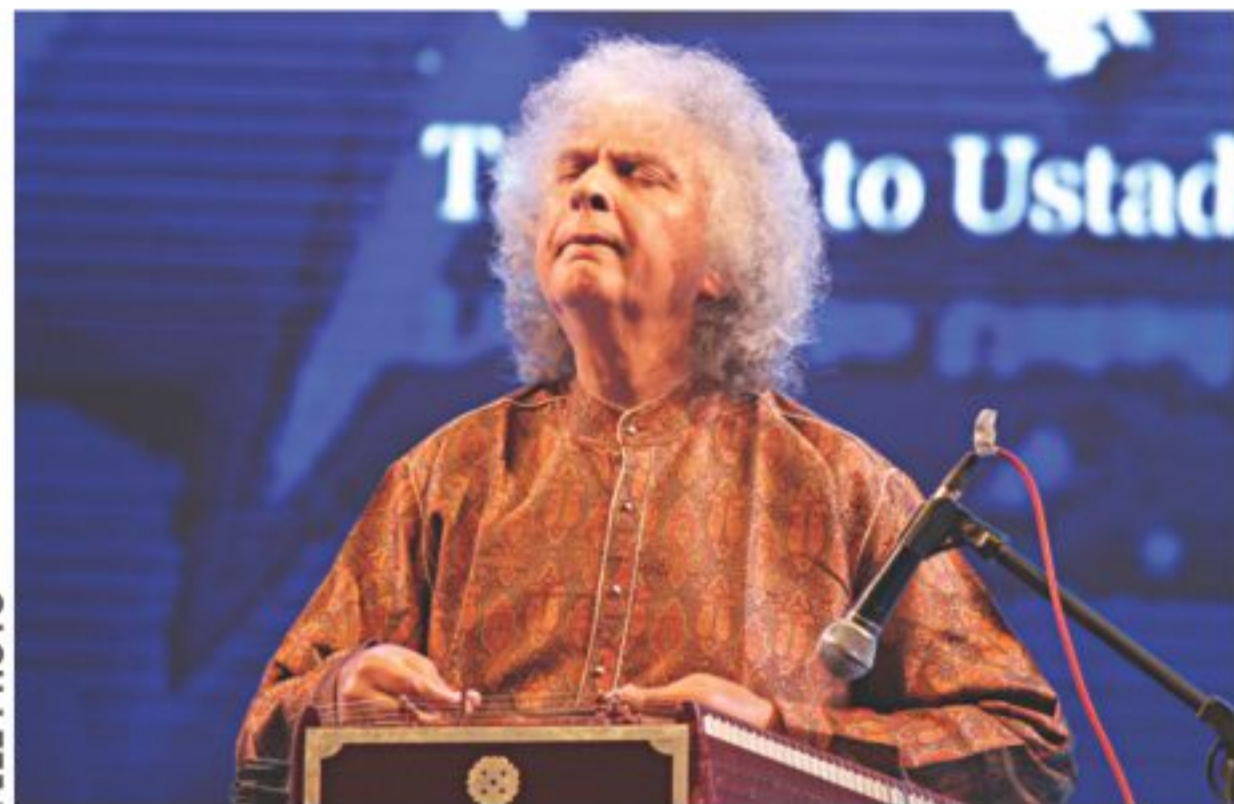
Celestial colour use and composition maturity, decorative motif, soothing texture coupled with exquisite tonal gradation appear very strong in Nasreen Begum’s work. The artist, with her innovative themes and neo-Bengal wash techniques, has portrayed women figures of multitude expressions and lively styles; enriched oriental figurative paintings with batik medium; depicted oriental styled line based paintings and formed lines with keeping blank white space on paper. Her works seem to have the texture of prints and etching. The language of Nasreen Begum’s art is sharp and intense like poetry and is prominent with regard to both subjects and techniques. So, both the general viewers and the art connoisseurs can draw the Rasa from her painting. “It is nature around that inspires me and eggs me on to work incessantly, filling my drawers with sheets of watercolour. I take in the sky, wind, sunrise, moonbeams, flowers, leaves, tendrils and pollen dust. The changing course of the seasons, especially before the rains, when the leaves are shed, also influences me. The months from Baishakh to Srabon move me most in my paintings. The fallen flowers and leaves on the roads are elements that inspire me. The starry and cloudy skies and the full moon inspire me, too. Elements like rivers and mountains also stir me up,” said Nasreen Begum. The artist’s personality is that of a disciplined individual, straight-forward with apt sensibility. “I love bright sunlit days with full of colours. There are so many elements of nature; I will not finish capturing them all in a single span of life. My entire life conscious-

ness constitutes the core of my painting,” she added.

Goya, Boticelli, Van Gogh, Picasso, Michelangelo, Salvador Dali and Abdur Rahman Chughtai are among the well-known artists she is moved by. Boticelli’s female figures, in particular, influenced Nasreen’s women’s portraits in her oriental art creations. Nasreen’s picturesque women faces speak of the happy coexistence of man and nature. She portrays women in the style of the Bengal school. The features of her women tell stories of the species from various parts of Bangladesh making her brushes pray like counting beads of rosary on papers as her devotional strokes and dots suggest. Through the use of colour, movement, light, shades and various forms, she searches the subconscious of Sigmund Freud in the mystical land of Lalou. The aesthetic unity she achieves through a melding of two separate and opposing concepts is amazing in their clarity and depth. The artist’s popular series include “Cacti”, “Cacti Woman”, “Women Figure”, “Reflections”, “Creation”, “After Ceremony”, “Sea-Shell”, “Image from Seashore”, “Door of a new life”, “Cityscape”, “Landscape”, “Seashore”, “Seashore Life”, “Impression” “Heritage”, “Sea Girl”, “Story of a Leaf” and “Fallen Leaves”. The artist has bagged many awards and honours including ‘Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Gold Medal’, conferred by the Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA) of Dhaka University. A professor at the Department of Oriental Art of FFA of Dhaka University, Nasreen Begum completed her BFA from the Department she teaches. Later, she obtained her MFA (Printmaking) from the Faculty of Fine Arts of Maharaja Sayaji Rao University, Baroda of Gujrat, India. She has held seven solo exhibitions along with a duet and a number of group exhibitions both at home and abroad including Russia, Germany, Denmark, Japan, China, Iran, Czech Republic, Pakistan, UAE, Norway, Nepal, India and Indonesia.

### BENGAL CLASSICAL MUSIC FEST '13

## The doyen of the serene santoor



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the build-up to the Bengal Classical Music Festival 2013 in association with ITC-SRA (Kolkata), Star Arts & Entertainment introduces you to the maestros set to perform in Dhaka this month. Today’s edition of the series features an artiste whose name is synonymous to the instrument. He is leaps and bounds ahead of any other artiste of an extremely intricate stringed instrument, which he has developed greatly himself.

**Pandit Shivkumar Sharma**  
Born on January 13, 1938 in Jammu, India, Pandit Shivkumar Sharma is a musician par excellence, a great composer and an outstanding guru. This living legend is truly a personification of the Indian ethos and values. Santoor, which was used in Sufi music in the valley of Kashmir, owes its classical status to Pandit Shivkumar Sharma. In the early decades of the twentieth century, Santoor or Shata-Tantri Veena as it was called in the ancient times was used as an accompaniment to a specific type of singing called Sufiana Mausiqi. When Pandit Uma Dutt Sharma, a renowned vocalist from Jammu, and a disciple of Pt. Bade Ramdasji of Benaras spotted it, he was convinced of the potentialities of the instrument. After extensive research on the instrument he bestowed the responsibility of establishing it on the concert platform on his only son Shivkumar. The rest, as they say, is history. After in-depth research, Shivkumar made some important modifications on this hundred-stringed instrument, like a new chromatic arrangement of notes and increased the range to cover full three octaves. Today Santoor is at par with any classical instrument, well established not just all over India, but across the globe. With his creative genius, Pt. Shivkumar Sharma has created a new genre of instrumental music. Through his performance career of over a half century, he has created millions of new listeners and ardent fans of Indian classical music. His performances are such a brilliant combination of rich knowledge, perfect skill and abundant spontaneous creativity, that all the sections of listeners feel enriched. He believes in the immortality of this great heritage of Indian classical music and wishes to leave no stone unturned to make it so. With this aim in mind, he has been imparting his knowledge to the next generation of musicians. So deep is his conviction that despite no institutional or government support, he has been teaching in the Guru-Shishya tradition, without charging a fee from his students, who come to him from all the corners of India as well as different parts of the world like Japan, Germany, Australia and America.

While he never compromises on the purity of music, Pt. Sharma’s open-minded approach has resulted in some innovative experimental albums like “Call of the Valley,” “Feelings” and “Mountains”. In fact he is among those rare musicians who have been able to create successfully in the world of film music as well. Now for over forty years Santoor is an indispensable part of Indian film music. His compositions for blockbusters like Silsila, Lamhe, Chandni and Darr are all time favourites across the country. Naturally, a musician with such a vast spectrum of achievements has a long list of National and International awards conferred upon him, like the Honorary Citizen for the City of Baltimore, USA (1985), Sangeet Natak Academy Award (1986), Honorary Doctorate from the University of Jammu (1991) Padmashree (1991) and Padma Vibhushan (2001). After his enchanting performance at last year’s Bengal Classical Music fest, music aficionados will be eager to listen to him again at this year’s edition. The Daily Star is a Strategic Partner of the Bengal Classical Music Festival 2013.