

WHAT'S ON

Tareque Masud Festival

Venue: National Art Gallery Auditorium, Shilpokola Academy

Date: Dec 6-7

Time: 3:30pm



Handicraft Exhibition

Organiser: Bangladesh National Museum

Venue: Nalini Kanta Bhattachali Gallery, National Museum

Date: Dec 1-7



Group Exhibition

Title: Very Graphic: The Art of Storytelling in Graphic Detail

Venue: 60 Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1

Date: Nov 16-Dec 7




Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed

Venue: Institute of Asian Creatives, Gulshan-2

Date: Dec 6-15

Time: 12pm-8pm




Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Nurun Naher Supti

Venue: Galerie Zoom, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi

Date: Dec 5-19

Time: 3pm-9pm



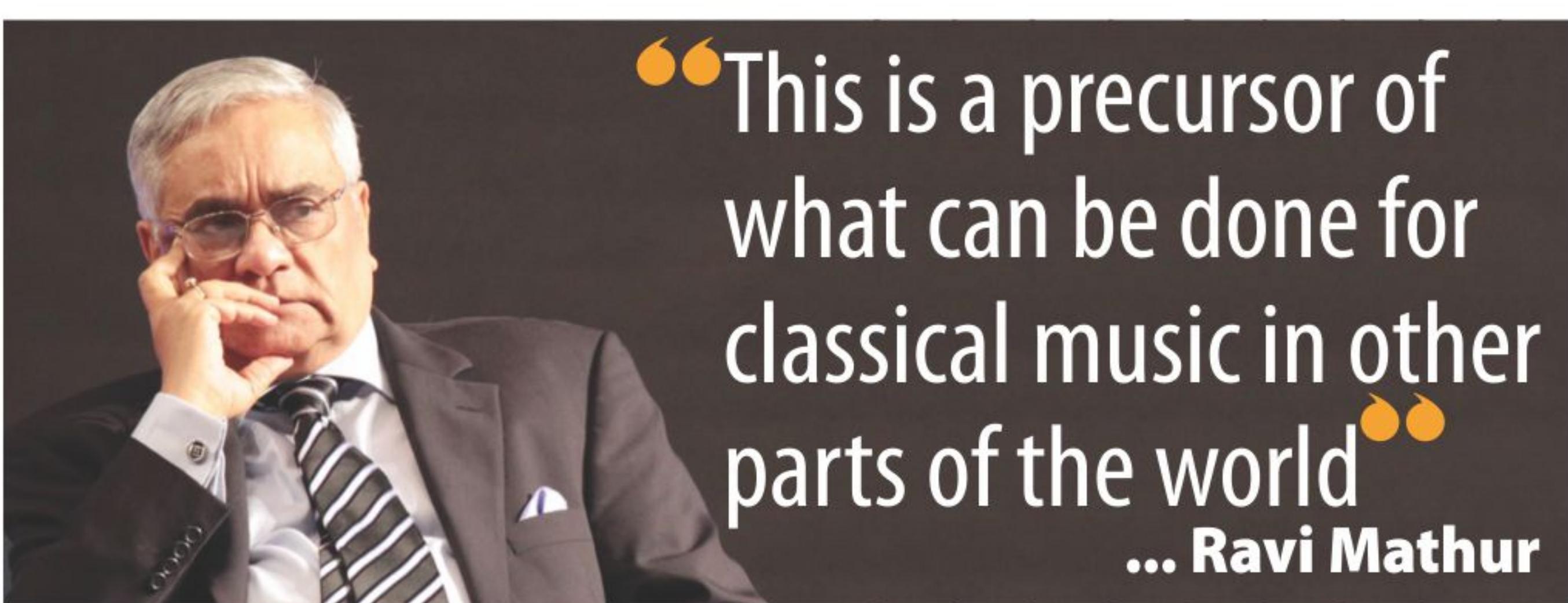
## NEWSbytes

### Frozen and Monsters University lead Annie field

Disney's "Frozen" and Pixar's "Monsters University" lead the nominations for the 41st Annie Awards, which honour the year's best achievements in animation. Both films landed 10 nominations each, including best animated feature. "Despicable Me 2" and "The Croods" also compete for the event's top prize, as do Japanese titles "The Wind Rises" and "A Letter to Momo" and the French animation "Ernest and Celestine". The awards will be handed out at a Los Angeles ceremony on February 1. The evening will see director Steven Spielberg recognised for his career contribution to the art of animation. "Despicable Me 2" and "The Croods" are each nominated in nine categories.



Hollywood actress Gwyneth Paltrow had her singing debut in the 2000 film "Duets", in which she performed a cover version of Smokey Robinson's "Cruisin'". The song was released as a single, and went to number one in Australia, while Paltrow's rendition of the Kim Carnes classic "Bette Davis Eyes" reached number three. In the 2006 film "Infamous", she sang "What Is This Thing Called Love". On September 27, 2006, Paltrow sang with rapper Jay-Z during his concert at Royal Albert Hall; she sang the chorus for "Song Cry", from the rapper's album Blueprint.



FAHMIM FERDOUS

ITC Sangeet Research Academy is one of India's biggest and most high profile institutions of classical music, and it is with their invaluable support that Bengal Foundation has been able to organise two brilliant editions of the Classical Music Festival. Executive director of the Academy, Ravi Mathur has been at the helm of the partnership between the two organisations, and he spoke to The Daily Star on the concluding night of the Bengal Classical Music Festival 2013. Excerpts:

From last year's festival, what do you think has been different this year? Ravi Mathur: You see, what started off with a great deal of vision has found a direction this year. I think one way to look at it is the numbers that registered; what amazes me constantly that we had not even thought this would be the audience response. The second thing is --

you learn as you go along. I think this year it's more organised than last year in terms of musicians. The third very important thing is, I believe this still needs nurturing; maybe a year, maybe two years. So what will happen then, it will become the finest festival of the subcontinent, with everyone wanting to be a part of it.

Tell us about the impact of this festival on ITC Sangeet Research Academy.

Ravi Mathur: This is a relationship at several levels. What is very fascinating is that it has worked at a great level of friendship and respect. Let me draw an instance; we now do not have a single function in our country without a musician from Bangladesh. Rob Fakir captured our minds and hearts when he was there; and even this year, at our main 'Sammelan', Rajrupa (Chowdhury) is playing. This is becoming a trend. Secondly, for our scholars, when you play before such an appreciative audience, it is the biggest catalyst for further progress in their music. There isn't a musician in our country who

doesn't want to perform here.

This partnership between Bengal Foundation and ITC-SRA is a long-term plan, with this festival slated annually for many years to come. How do you picture this festival, maybe five or seven years down the line?

Ravi Mathur: I think it's a fantastic partnership because there is clarity, there's of understanding and purpose. Through this festival, more and more I think we've come to understand the traditions of Bengal. On a personal level, I think it has been a learning experience for all of us. Very important in this is the vision and dynamism of Mr. Abul Khair (Chairman, Bengal Group) and indeed the risk that he has taken last year.

As for the festival, I don't think this area will be enough; we may have to push the stage back 200 feet, and still find it very crowded. This is a precursor of what can be done for classical music in other parts of the subcontinent -- even in my own country, maybe Pakistan, and also abroad where there is sub-continental diaspora -- in the US, UK, other parts of Europe, perhaps... (smiles)

## Jibondhuli selected for Jaipur Film Festival

Tanvir Mokammel's latest silver screen endeavour, "Jibondhuli", has been selected to participate in the competition section of the 6th Jaipur International Film Festival 2014, beginning from February 1-5. Director Tanvir Mokammel has been invited to attend the festival, says a press release.

The national grant-winning film is the story of a minority 'dhuli' or folk drummer, Jibonkrishna Das, during the Liberation War of 1971. The cast of the film includes Shatabdi Wadud, Ramendu Majumder, Wahida Mollick Jolly, Chitralakha Guha, Pran Roy, Jyotika Jyoti and several rural drummers.



## Craft fair at National Museum



Guests visit the fair.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Department of Ethnography and Decorative Art of the Bangladesh National Museum (BNM) in the city has organised a seven -day craft fair at Nalini Kanta Bhattachali Gallery of the museum. Varied craftworks by traditional artisans are on display at the exhibition.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu recently inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest. Dr. Ranjit Kumar Biswas ndc, Secretary of Ministry of Cultural Affairs was present as special guest. M Azizur Rahman, president of Bangladesh National Museum's Board of Trustees presided over the programme. Prakash Chandra Das, director general of National Museum delivered the welcome speech at the inauguration.

About 40 artisans, who participated at the Setouchi International Art Festival in Japan last

July, are showcasing their works at the fair. The festival offers a different range of crafts made from various raw materials like jute, bamboo, cane, cotton, brass, metal, wood and other inexpensive and easily available materials. Moreover, rickshaw paintings, clay artworks, nakshi kantha, jamdani, traditional music instruments, variety of bags, show-pieces, handicrafts and more are on display at the fair. Handmade paper, jewellery, decorative pottery, leather goods, traditional Shokher Hari, Shika, Shola, dolls, shell bracelets, embroidery, garlands, and a large variety of fabrics are also on display.

"The fair has a vast variety of handicrafts which reflect our culture and tradition. Through this festival we hope to promote the distinctive handicrafts of the participating artisans from different parts of the country," said Jahangir Hussain, Keeper, Department of Contemporary Art and World Civilization, BNM. The exhibition will continue till December 7.

## Bangladeshi martial artist Mak Yuree on Ripley's Believe It Or Not

Bangladeshi Grandmaster Dr. Mak Yuree, a 10th degree black-belt holder, founder of Butthan Psychophysical Empowerment System and owner of various accolades, was featured in the popular Ripley's Believe It or Not cartoon for his superhuman capability, says a press release.

Before Ripley's, Discovery Channel had featured him as one of five super humans. A team of scientists finally confirmed him after their scientific investigations of 60 world record holders from five continents and was eager to find out what exactly makes these five men so powerful and Special.

During his research works, Dr. Yuree was contacted by Discovery Channel's UK Office, who were doing a Superhuman research project. Mak Yuree, according to the scientific investigation of this programme, can throw the strongest kick by a human being. It was found that Dr. Yuree has the unique ability to instantly attain alpha level of the brain, which enables him to recruit and engage 96 percent of his muscles to deliver the unbelievably powerful kick to break three baseball bats in a bundle. According to research carried out by Wayne University, USA, each baseball bat requires 740 pounds to be broken.

MAK Yuree has countless accolades in martial arts, in competitive and non-competitive formats alike, all over the world.



## Seng Kut Snem celebrated in Kamalgonj

MINRU DESHWARA, back from Magurcherra Punjee (Kamalgonj)

The year-ending festival of the indigenous Khasis--Seng Kut Snem -- was celebrated recently with great fanfare at the open field of Magurcherra Punjee at Kamalgonj Upazila, Moulvibazar.

People of all ages, dressed in their finest traditional outfits, took part in the celebrations. Earlier in the day, a colourful procession was taken out through the city, with tableaux depicting the different facades of Khasi culture.

This programme was organised by the year-ending Khasi festival committee and Khasi Students Council. The Seng Kut Snem is a festival that is observed to mark the Seng Khasi movement. The celebration is a form of community prayer for protection of the distinct identity of the Khasi community.

Folk songs, dances and musical performances will also be a part of the festival.

Chief Guest, Additional Deputy Commissioner (revenue) of Moulvibazar district, Prokash Kanti Chowdhury said the purpose of the annual festival was to inspire the people to preserve their indigenous religion and culture.

## TV WATCH

### Hridoye Muktiyuddho on Channel i



On the occasion of the month of victory, Channel i is airing a special programme on the Liberation War titled "Hridoye Muktiyuddho", featuring a discussion, documentary show, poetry recitation and musical soiree. The programme, aired at 5.30 pm everyday, will continue till December 16. Day to day events and major combats during the war are also brought to light on the show. The programme is directed and planned by Raju Alim. Actress Rokeya Prachi is the anchor of the programme.

## Kobial Bijoy Sarkar's death anniversary observed

PONUEL S BOSE, Narail

The 28th death anniversary of the reputed Indo-Bangla bard Bijoy Sarkar was observed on December 4.

On this occasion, Narail district administration and Bijoy Foundation jointly organised a daylong programme. A Bijoy mela (fair) with around 50 stalls was also held at Narail Shilpakala Academy premises.

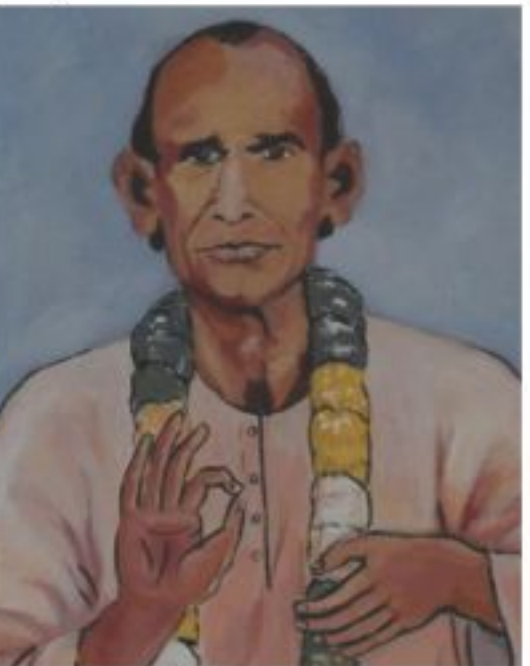
The programme included placing wreaths on the portrait of the late poet, lighting lamps and renditions of the bard's songs by artistes from different corners of the country, an art exhibition, observing one minute's silence for the departed soul, a meeting and conferment of the Bijoy Sarkar Foundation Medal.

Abdul Gaffar Khan, Deputy Commissioner, Narail also president of Bijoy Foundation inaugurated the programme as chief guest. Advocate Subash Bose, administrator of Narail Zila Parishad was present as the main speaker. Sharif Humayun Kobir presided over the programme.

A cultural function and Bijoy Geeti, Pot Gaan, Dhua Gaan were performed by local artistes.

Bijoy Krishno Adhikary alias Bijoy Sarkar was born on February 20, 1903 in the village Dumdi under Narail adar Upazila of the district. The bard breathed his last on December 4, 1985.

Sarkar formed the Kobial singing troupe in 1929, and wrote countless songs and poems. In 2013, he was awarded the Ekushey Padak posthumously.



## Tapan Chowdhury performs at IGCC



A CORRESPONDENT

Popular singer Tapan Chowdhury recently performed at a musical evening at Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) in the city.

The singer held audience spellbound by rendering some popular songs like "Hey Bondhu Hey Priyo", "Tumi Ekjani Bondhu Amar", "Amaye Proshno Kore Neel Dhruvotara", "Sob Kichhu Chharte Pari", "Ele Na Hoy", "Ogo Borosha Tumi", "Mon Shudhu Mon Chhuyeche" and others.

Tapan was accompanied by Iftekhar Hossain on guitar, Ruptanu Das Sharma on keyboard, Abhijit Chakraborty on tabla, Selim on violin, Dipu Aslam on octopad and Kamrul Islam on flute at the musical soiree.

The artiste commenced his career with the famous music band 'Souls'. He also lent his voice as a playback singer to over 300 Bangla movies. Having worked with almost all reputed music directors of the country, he has released over 100 CDs of his solo, duet and mixed albums at home and abroad.

IGCC, in association with Asian Paints, IRCON and Marico Bangladesh, organised the event as part of its regular cultural programmes.