

## WHAT'S ON

**Tareque Masud Festival**  
Venue: National Art Gallery  
Auditorium, Shilpakala  
Academy  
Date: Dec 6-7  
Time: 3:30pm

**Handicraft Exhibition**  
Organiser: Bangladesh National  
Museum  
Venue: Nalini Kanta Bhattacharya  
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  
Time: 12pm-5pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Kazi Salauddin Ahmed  
Venue: Institute of Asian Creatives,  
Gulshan-2  
Date: Dec 6-15  
Time: 12pm-5pm

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Artist: Nurun Nahar Sultana  
Venue: Galerie Zoom, Alliance  
Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi  
Date: Dec 5-19  
Time: 3pm-9pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Quest for Reality  
Artist: Rafiqun Nabi  
Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dhanmondi  
Date: Dec 7-19  
Time: 12pm-8pm

**Musical Soiree**  
Artist: Sujit Mustafa  
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural  
Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan 1  
Date: Dec 6  
Time: 6:30pm

**Theatre**  
Play: Prometheus  
Troupe: Mohakal  
Venue: National Theatre Hall,  
Shilpakala Academy  
Date: Dec 6

## NEWSbytes



## Rockwell painting sells for record \$46m

A Norman Rockwell painting, "Saying Grace", has been sold for \$46m in New York, a new record for a piece of American art sold at auction.

It shows a crowded restaurant with a grandmother and grandson bowed in prayer at a table they are sharing with two young men.

The painting's pre-sale estimate by Sotheby's was \$15m to \$20m. The buyer's identity was not disclosed.

Ten Rockwell works in total were sold at the auction. "The Gossips" sold on Wednesday for just under \$8.5m, while "Walking to Church" fetched more than \$3.2m.

Many came from the family of Kenneth Stuart, the art editor at the Saturday Evening Post at the time when many of Rockwell's paintings were featured on the magazine's covers.

The previous record for the sale of an American painting at auction was set in 1999, also at Sotheby's, when George Bellows' "Polo Crowd" sold for \$27.7m.



## A view from the frontlines

Saeeda Kamal on the Liberation War

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saeeda Kamal speaks with passion about the most important event in her life—the War of Liberation. "During the Liberation War, I was a third year student of Dacca Art College (now the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka). From the beginning of the war, my family was greatly inclined to help the Freedom Fighters in different ways. I was completely inspired by my mother, poet Sufia Kamal.

During the Liberation War in 1971, we made a plan to go to Comilla with the guidance of Mahmudur Rahman Benu (singer). We were 12 in the group, including Shahadat Chowdhury (editor of the defunct government-owned weekly Bichitra), Milia Ghani (a talented exponent of Tagore songs), Syed Alamgir (son of poet Sikandar Abu Jafar). We first reached Chandina, then crossed the border and stayed at Shomamora village.

After reaching there, we got to meet Fateh Ali Chowdhury (brother of Shahadat Chowdhury). He informed us that Dr. Akhter Ahmed, a physician of Army Medical Core, wanted to establish a hospital in the region. The hospital was founded in a forest bungalow. Khaled Mosharraf visited the hospital and encouraged us with his support and close observation. The hospital started with great zeal. We served the patients as nurses and stayed there from June to the end of the November 1971. We assisted wounded Freedom Fighters and injured villagers. After some days, Dalia Ahmed (elocutionist), Linu Billah (singer), Habibul Alam, Bir Protik; and his two sisters Asma and Reshma joined us.

We fought for values and principles. The camp, where we worked, had insufficient food, clothes and medicine. We lived in a tent. However, all these never seemed as any obstacle or difficulties; patriotism and devotion to the country and its people always was our priority.

The younger generation is learning more about our Liberation War. We must encourage patriotism and knowledge about the values of our Liberation War. We must all work together to build our country.

## Songs for the birds

Concert at Jahangirnagar University

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nature has her own songs as birds chirp, slender waves of lakes fashion small beats, a gentle breeze blows styling soothing melody and tossing leaves in the trees produce music. Music lies everywhere indeed. The idyllic campus of Jahangirnagar University at Savar, Dhaka has been a safe haven for migratory birds over the years. With many lakes and exquisite greenery across the campus area, the birds flock together in the campus from Siberia every year.

To hail the migratory 'guest' birds this year, solo music artists along with several promising bands have set their schedules to sing for the birds. The idea is to welcome the birds who have travelled thousands of miles to be here.

The concert will begin at 3pm on December 6. Entry is free. Some 16 bands and solo artists, including Kafil Ahmed, Samogiet, Chitkar, Sohojia, Monosoroni, Leela, Soul Rebel, Biskut, Onnoswar, Saptosindhu, Trimmingil, Surjo Sarothi, Abhijit Das, Anom, Akil Ashraf and Sayem Joy will give performances. To make the journey easier for music lovers, a bus service has been arranged for audiences from Chhobir Haat, Shahbagh to Jahangirnagar University route at 1:30 pm. "Pakhider Jonno Gaan" (Song for the Birds) has been organised by little magazine "Hahakar" in association with dhropodi.com.



## Joler Gaan to perform at IGCC



Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) in association with Asian Paints, IRCON and Marico Bangladesh is to organise a musical evening by popular Bangladesh folk-fusion band Joler Gaan at 6:30 PM on December 7 at IGCC, Gulshan-1, Dhaka, says a press release.

Joler Gaan derives inspiration from elements of nature. Their music is very contemporary, distinctively earthy and connected to the soil. They began their musical journey in 2006 at the World Sufi Festival in Glasgow, Scotland. They subsequently performed at the Royal Museum in Edinburgh, Scotland and at the London Mela in London. The band has performed all

around Bangladesh

Joler Gaan has also collaborated with well-known French musician Abaji and the Scottish musician Colin Blakey. Their first album, titled "Otol Joler Gaan" was released this year to massive response. Their second album, "The Cage", is going to be released soon.

The band lineup includes Rahul Anand, Mohammad Atiqul Islam Kanak, Md Saiful Islam Jamal, Rana Sarwar, Sanjay Saha, Shariful Islam, Mohammad Abu Bakar Siddiki, Shyamal Karmakar and Fazlul Kader Chowdhury.

## Rafiqun Nabi's retrospective exhibition to open at Bengal Gallery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

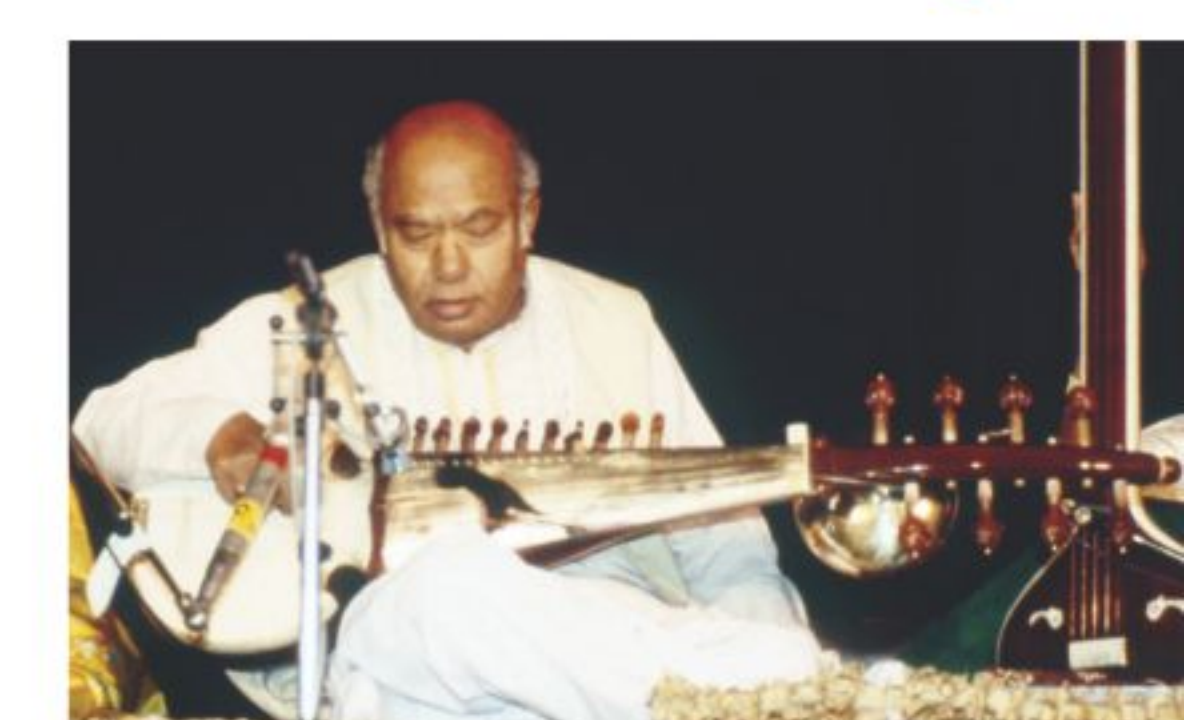
On the occasion of the 70th birthday of renowned painter-printmaker Rafiqun Nabi, Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in Dhanmondi will organise a retrospective exhibition titled "Quest for Reality" of the artist. The exhibition opens tomorrow and will continue until December 19. The event is being organised with selected works of the artist spanning five decades. Most of the displayed works are from private collections which narrate his creative sojourn.

The exhibition will be inaugurated by Begum Jahanara Abedin (widow of Zainul Abedin). Noted art collector Syed Durjoy Rahman Joy, veteran artist Qayyum Chowdhury and Matiur Rahman, editor of Daily Prothom Alo will be present as special guests.

The painter is well-known for his paintings, woodcut prints and drawings. The specialty of Nabi's paintings is an in-depth observation of rural life -- simple villagers, domestic animals, tranquil atmosphere and childhood nostalgia. Nabi is an artist who adheres to experimental realism. Mingling romanticism and impressionism, he does figurative work -- painting fishermen, day labourers, crows, kingfishers, goats, cows, buffaloes, boats, wild flowers and people at leisure. Colours usually used by the artist are azure, yellow, ochre, red, black and emerald green -- representing pastoral Bengal. Curved lines and lucid compositions are significant aspects some of his paintings. The interrelationship of humans, animals and nature is another feature of his paintings.



## IT'S TRUE!



Sarod maestro Ustad Ali Akbar Khan was born in the village of Shibpur, Comilla, in present-day Bangladesh (then East Bengal) on April 14, 1922, to legendary musician and teacher, Ustad Allauddin Khan and Madina Begum. From an early age, Khan received training from his father in various instruments as well as vocal composition, but finally gravitated towards the sarod. Allauddin was a perfectionist and a strict taskmaster, and Khan's lessons started before dawn and often lasted 18 hours a day. He also learned to play the tabla and the pakhawaj from his uncle, Aftabuddin Khan.

## Badhon

An off track persona

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Badhon entered the media world through the "Lux Channel-i Superstar" talent hunt. She soon became a very popular face on the small screen, while gaining popularity as a model. A new serial of the artist is now being aired on ntv.

In a recent conversation, Badhon spoke to The Daily Star about matters close to her heart.

**Tell us about your new serial?**

**Badhon:** I play an employee of a corporate office in "Yes Boss No Boss". My character keeps the boss in the loop about the happenings in the office.

**What was your first TV play?**

**Badhon:** "Bua Bilash" written and directed by noted litterateur Humayun Ahmed. I am very fortunate to have worked with such a celebrated author/director.

**What is your biggest regret?**

**Badhon:** I dreamt of playing the coveted role of Rupa in a play based on an acclaimed novel of Humayun Ahmed. Finally, my dream was not realised.

**Which TV commercials brought you into the spotlight?**

**Badhon:** A TVC of Tibet was critically acclaimed. I did another acclaimed TVC of Warid with singer Sumon.

**What was your primary goal as a child?**

**Badhon:** It was my ambition to be an engineer following in the footsteps of my father. Later, I turned to the medical field at my father's behest. I studied at the Bangladesh Medical College.

**What plans do you have for the future?**

**Badhon:** I have many plans in the offing. Firstly, I plan to treat dental patients at Gulshan along with my friend Suraiya. We recently also opened a salon named Makeover.

**What makes you tick?**

**Badhon:** I love doing different projects, even if they are off-track. I always wanted to do something out of the ordinary.



## Nouvelle Vague of Iranian Cinema

SYED MAQSUD JAMIL

Going back to the end of the '70s and '80s, Iran is more known as an obscurantist country. Onwards in the '90s, Iran earned appreciation as a country of new wave cinema. At the head of it was Mohsen Makhmalbaf.

Mohsen Makhmalbaf's first notable movie was "Gabbhe" (Persian rug) 1995. It was followed by two other movies, "A Moment of Innocence" (1997) and "The Silence" (1998). Makhmalbaf came into international prominence with the movie "Kandahar" made in (2001). The movie brought him the Federico Fellini Prize from UNESCO. It tells the story of journey by a Canadian Afghan woman venturing to visit Kandahar to save her suicidal sister living under repressive Taliban rule. The lady goes through an ordeal of change of guides, getting sick, and frisking by Taliban agents in her long trek to Kandahar. Makhmalbaf's wife Marziyeh Makhmalbaf made a three-part movie, "The Day I Became a Woman" (2000). His daughter Samira made the movie "The Apple" focusing on the lives of two girls.

The turning point in the nouvelle vague of Iranian cinema was Abbas Kiarostami's "Close-Up" (1990). It tells the true story of an Iranian film lover and a great fan of Makhmalbaf. The impersonator while riding a bus introduces him as Makhmalbaf to a female passenger. He went to the extent of visiting her house several times and in time her sons gets interested to act. He even obtains substantial amount of money from the eldest son. The father of the family gets suspicious. A journalist comes to learn of the fraud from his friend and the matter becomes a sensational story "Bogus Makhmalbaf arrested".

The report interested Abbas Kiarostami. "Taste of Cherry" is Abbas Kiarostami's award winning movie. It received the Palme D'Or jointly with Shohei Imamura's Japanese movie "The Eel" at 1997 Cannes Film Festival. The story is about a man who wants to commit suicide (Homayoun Ershadi). He goes around Tehran looking for a man who can help him in carrying it out. He would get into a hole after taking all the sleeping pills he has. If his accomplice found him dead he would cover up the hole with soil. He finally finds an accomplice. The accomplice starts telling his side of the story that he once decided to commit suicide but a taste of mulberry dissuaded him from carrying it out. In the final frames, the full moon is gliding in and out of dark cloud a thunderstorm is rumbling. Homayoun's face is projected in dim light. Kiarostami's unit is on the location. Homayoun drives away in his car. His film "Through the Olive Trees" (1994) is about the interaction of a movie director and his actors.

The next movie is "The Wind Will Carry Us" (1999). A group of journalists pretending to be engineers arrive at a Kurdish village to study their rituals anticipating a death. The main engineer starts appreciating their lifestyle. The film "Shirin" (2008) explores image sound and female viewers of a theatrical presentation of the play on Khosrow and Shirin.

"Bashu, the Little Stranger" (1990) by Bahram Beizai is a movie of human appeal. Bashir, a boy in Southern Iran, loses his home, his family during the Iraq-Iran War. He gets on a truck and it drops him in Northern Iran and a woman named Nai gives him shelter. He integrates with the family overcoming the deterrence of his Arab language and darker skin. Nai's husband returns with no money and a missing arm. He argues over Bashu. But Bashu embraces him as his father and the whole family is united.

Jafar Panahi, once an assistant director under Kiarostami, is another famous Iranian film director. His movies focus on the plight of impoverished and defenseless women and the discrimination they suffer. "The White Balloon" (1995) deals with the advantage that many take of the innocence of minor girls, hustling away money given to them by their parents for buying goldfish, while "The Circle" (2000) deals with common instances of subjecting defenseless women to harassment and cruelty. "Crimson God" (2003) tells the story of corruption in Iranian society a pizza delivery man witnesses in

the course of his professional calls. Jafar Panahi was jailed for his boldness and later left Iran to go abroad.

Majid Majidi who once acted in a Mohsen Makhmalbaf movie makes movies that deal with realism and children. His movies "Children of Heaven" (1997), "The Colour of Paradise" (1999), "BARAN" (2001) and "The Song of Sparrows" (2008) are familiar names. "Children of Heaven" is a touching tale of losing shoes and about sharing shoes when Ali loses his sister's shoe and starts sharing his shoe with his sister. "The Colour of Paradise" is about a blind boy in a handicapped children's school. His father wants to send him away to work at a job for the fear that the woman he wants to marry does not know that he has a son. "The Song of Sparrows" is the story of the trials of poor and burdened Karim working at an ostrich farm.

Asghar Farhadi is now at the forefront of Iranian new wave film movement. His movie "A Separation" got the Oscar for Best Foreign Film in 2012. The story is about separation proceedings affecting the lives of a couple caught between decisions to stay in Iran or to live abroad. The matter is confounded by the fact that the husband's father is an Alzheimer's patient. Farhadi's earlier film "About Elly" (2009) is about a tense situation for three families that got to the seaside for recreation.

Dariussh Mehryji is another talented director of Iran. He made "The Cow" (1969), an internationally acclaimed movie. "Hamoun" (1990) is another good movie by Mehryji. In 1997 Mehryji made "Leila", a heartbreaking story of conjugal bliss crashing on the reality of life, due to the goodness of the two stretching beyond limit. Reza and Leila are happily married but they find out that Leila has a problem and cannot have a child.

The nouvelle vague of Iranian cinema is an example to emulate in a Muslim society speaking another language. Iranian movies have the values and cinematic excellence to adore.

The writer is a film buff.



Scenes from the films "A Separation" and "Children of Heaven".

## Shilpakala's Tribute to Manna Dey

Musical programme at National Art Gallery auditorium



Rafiqul Alam (L) and Sumon Chowdhury perform at the programme.



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) organised a musical evening as a tribute to legendary singer Manna Dey at the National Art Gallery auditorium of BSA on December 4. BSA director general Liaquat Ali Lucky discussed on the life and works of Manna Dey at the event. Later, eminent singer Subir Nandi emceed the event with presenting many anecdotes along with his personal memories with the legend. Nine artists -- Sumon Chowdhury, Sujit Mustafa, Rafiqul Alam, Timir Nandi, Mamun Zahid Khan, Mousumi, Mafizun Rahman, Shoron and Tanjima Ruma -- performed two songs each at the event. Renowned Ustad and versatile singer Suman Chowdhury impeccably rendered two songs -- "Tumi Anek Jotno Kore" and "Joroar Jhumko Theke", while elaborating the story behind Manna Dey's friend Pulak Bandyopadhyay's writing the lyrics of the song. Sumon Chowdhury, with his apt citation and performance, enthralled the audience. Noted singer and teacher Sujit Mustafa came next to perform two romantic songs -- "Amaye Akash Bollo" and "Ki Dekhle Tumi Amate" -- recorded by Manna Dey. The artist's melodious performance charmed

the audience. He also shared his personal memories with the legendary Manna Dey at the programme. Prior to performing songs -- "Sundani Go", "Jiboney Ki Pabona" and "sthaiy of two numbers -- "Mishti Ekta Gondho" and "Lalita Go" (on request), noted singer Rafiqul Alam spoke about his first meeting with the legend on a Bangladesh Biman flight. Another noted artist Timir Nandi, following a conventional Manna Dey style of rendition, presented "Eto Raag Noy" and "Pousher Kachhakachi" that the audience received with applause. Among others, singer Mamun Zahid Khan splendidly rendered a romantic song "Shudhu Ekdin Bhalobasha" while a promising artist Shoron won the heart of the host Subir Nandi with her performance of the song "Ke Tumi Tondra Horoni". Subir Nandi then urged the featured artist to render the sanchari of the song once more. Subir Nandi then rendered the song "Coffee House-er Shei Addata" and asked the audience to lend their voice with him. The credit for quality instrumental accompaniment to almost all the songs goes to Yusuf Khan (sarod), Bishwajit (tabla), Md Moniruzzaman (flute), Ropatanu (keyboard) and Sunil Das (violin) of BSA.

## TV WATCH

### Citycell Channel-i Music AWARDS '13

A CORRESPONDENT

The 9th Citycell Channel-i Music Awards 2013 was held recently at Al Ahli stadium, Qatar. The audience cheered with the opening presentation of the popular DJ Roy number. "Dhon O Dhanney Pushpe Bhora", by noted Bangladeshi singers. Prominent singer Syed Abdul Hadi was honoured with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' at the ceremony. Popular singers and musicians from Nepal, Bhutan, the Maldives and Sri Lanka were also awarded at the event held at Al Ahli stadium, Qatar.

The star-studded programme included renowned singers Runa Laila, Sabina Yasmin, Momtaz, Syed Abdul Hadi, Rezwana Chowdhury Bonnyia, Shakila Zafar, Tapan Chowdhury, Ayub Bachchu, James, Balam, Kona, Habib, Dinat Jahan Munni, Nakul Kumar Biswas, Konal and more.

Celebrated actors Babita, Razzak, Moushumi, Ishita, Omar Sanny, Nipun, Ferdous and Tisha, among others, took part at the glitzy ceremony.

The recorded programme will be aired today at 2:40pm on channel i.

## MUSICAL EVENING BY Sujit Mustafa

Eminent singer Sujit Mustafa will perform today at 6:30 pm at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Gulshan-1, Dhaka, says a press release.

Mustafa has presented songs in the genres of classical, semi-classical, Nazrul sangeet and modern Bangla songs at several performances at home and abroad. He performed at the concert organised at the Delhi Siri Fort Auditorium in 1990 on the occasion of Pandit Ravi Shankar's 70th birthday celebrations. He was selected to perform classical music at the Vidushi Kalakar Utsav organised by the Sahitya Kala Parishad at New Delhi in 1990.

Mustafa has released several albums such as "Amar Ganer Prothom Chorokhoni", "Onak Brishty Jhore", and "Dure Bohudure". He is editor of a monthly magazine on Bangladesh's National Poet, Kazi Nazrul Islam.

The musical evening will be held in association with Asian Paints, IRCON and Marico Bangladesh.

