

WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Quest for Reality

Artist: Rafiqun Nabi

Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dhanmondi

Date: Dec 7-19

Time: 12pm-8pm



Annual Art Exhibition

Organisers: Shilpakala Academy and Dhaka Art College

Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy

Date: Dec 9-21

Time: 11am-7pm



Dance Recital

Title: Nupur Beje Jaye

Organiser: Shadhona

Venue: Dance and Music Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy

Date: Dec 9

Time: 6:30pm




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

Dylan Strat fetches nearly a million in auction

The electric guitar played by Bob Dylan at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival has been sold at auction in New York for a record \$965,000. The Fender Stratocaster had been in the possession of a New Jersey family for 48 years after he left it on a plane.

The pilot's daughter had it authenticated on a television programme on US broadcaster PBS.

The festival in Newport, Rhode Island, is often cited as the performance where Dylan "went electric".

Dylan's move "changed the structure of folk music", Newport Folk Festival founder George Wein, 88, told the Associated Press news agency. But at the time, the three-song set drew boos from the crowd, who had come expecting Dylan's traditional acoustic folk performance.

Auction house Christie's had estimated the guitar would sell for \$300,000-\$500,000. The buyer has not been identified.

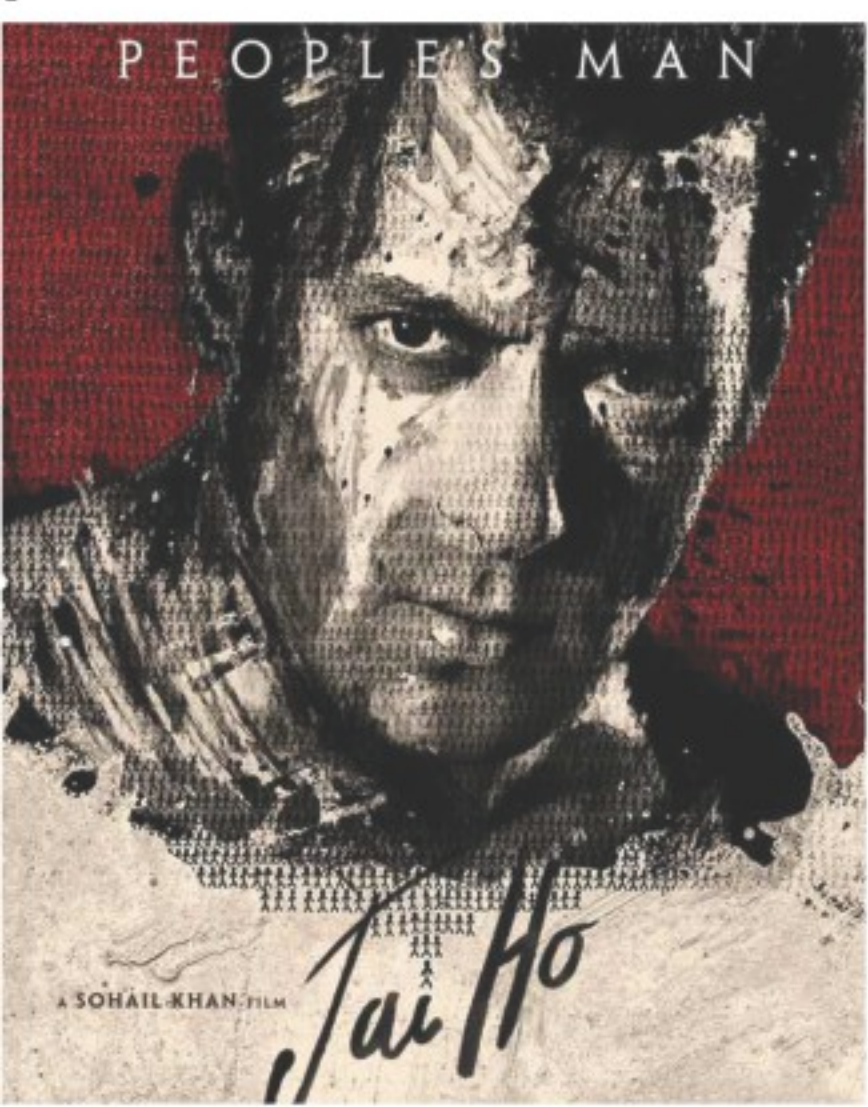
Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!

Genelia D'Souza did her first modeling assignment at the age of 15, after being spotted as the bridesmaid at a wedding. She was selected for the Parker Pen commercial with Amitabh Bachchan, just two days before her exams, and had to shoot the next day. Initially she refused, because of her exam the next day, but the director persuaded Genelia to shoot for the commercial. She gained wide attention from the commercial, who said "she was good, and her expressions were spontaneous." When Genelia was offered a break in Bollywood in "Tujhe Meri Kasam", initially she turned it down, as she was not keen to pursue a career in acting. But the crew insisted and kept contacting her for two months, and she agreed when she saw the Telugu version of the movie.



Salman paints first poster of Jai Ho



Salman Khan's painting skills are well-known. People close to him have been delighted to receive his works of art as gifts in the past.

Now, for the first time ever, the superstar has painted the first poster of his upcoming film, "Jai Ho". He was keen to have his fans on his flagship poster, so thousands of faces have been merged to make a close up shot of him.

Salman and brother Sohail Khan (who is directing the film as well as producing it along with Sunil Lulla) were keen to have something special as the first imagery of the film, as they are coming together after a long time.

Fans queued up on his social networking page to be a part of the poster, which the actor drew and gave to his digital team to incorporate. In fact, the "Jai Ho" font is in the actor's hand writing itself.

Interestingly, this movie would be his next release after "Ek Tha Tiger", which hit theatres almost one and a half year back, making it the longest gap ever between his film releases.

"Jai Ho", produced by Eros International and Sohail Khan Productionz, releases on January 24.

Source: TOI

Dr Niaz Zaman bags Ananya prize 2013

FAYZA HAQ

"Ananya" is a feminist magazine, and brings to light gender-related social and economic issues. How does writer Dr. Niaz Zaman feel about receiving the Ananya prize this year? Her response: "I am very happy because this is the 20th year of the award. I am also humbled." She points out that the prize has been accorded to figures whom she admires, as for example Dr. Nilima Ibrahim, Nurjahan Begum, Noorjahan Bose, Selina Hossain, Rizia Rahman and others. However, she admits that she had reservations about accepting the award. "Jean Paul Sartre refused the Nobel Prize. He advanced a number of reasons, and one of them was that as a writer he had a distinctive identity. However, as Nobel Prize winner, he had a totally different identity. Awards institutionalise a person. My mission is to speak the truth. With an award like this, I would not be allowed to be the same person."

Niaz takes pride in bearing a man's name. To start with, she was Niaz Ali and after marriage, became Niaz Zaman. The reason for the name was that when she wrote, people did not know her gender. She used to write for the



Pakistani media before 1971. The Karachi magazine, Herald, believed that she was writing under her husband's name, and so asked for her actual name, while inviting her to write more. Though the story was a feminist one, it did not reveal that she was a woman author. For

the same reason, she says, she thought twice of accepting the Ananya Award because it was an award for women. She was appalled at how infrequently women had received the Bangla Academy Award. By 2013, 232 men had received the award, while only 21 women had carried away the recognition. The ratio worked out to eight men to one woman.

Against this backdrop, she is encouraged by the special award. "Till a time when men and women can be on par, I am happy to receive the award from Ananya. "She adds that she hopes for a few more productive years, so that she can pursue her passion for writing and editing.

Shamim Akhter, of the advisory committee of Ananya, says the annual prize was given this year to Dr. Niaz because of her continuing contributions to literature. The jury panel included Tasmima Hossain, the editor, and Ferdous Azim. "Year Before last -- Maleka Begum won the award for her research work. Maleka has been compiling writings of women and her research is women-centric," says Shamim. Kazi Rozy and Selina Hossain were previous award winners.



A celebration of adventure

Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour 2013 in Bangladesh

SARAH-JANE SALTMARSH

What has four legs, five arms and three heads? "The Gimp Monkeys". Craig DeMartino lost his leg after a 100-foot climbing fall. Pete Davis was born without an arm. Bone cancer claimed Jarem Frye's left leg at the age of 14.

The three are linked by what they are missing, but they are also linked by what they have - an insanelly strong passion for adventure; a passion which led them to successfully complete the first all-disabled ascent of Yosemite's iconic El Capitan in the United States. There was no cause, no call for awareness, no fundraising. It was just 1800 feet of passion, pain and toughness. In the words of DeMartino: "We are climbers first, disabled second. If you're a climber, you want to climb El Cap."

"The Gimp Monkeys" is one of the many award-winning films featuring in the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour, the world's most prestigious adventure film festival. The festival hit

Bangladesh on Friday, with 21 films from around the globe being screened at Dhaka's National Museum. This is the fourth year that local adventure organisation Kewkradong Bangladesh has brought the festival to Bangladesh at no charge for local adventure enthusiasts.

This year's sold-out festival saw four hours of adventure films from around the world being shown to over 1200 attendees. The event was inaugurated by Canada's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Heather Cruden -- an adventure enthusiast herself -- who said that the festival inspired her to "remember that adventure is everywhere and it is important to regularly turn off from technology and spend time with nature."

The Banff Mountain Film Festival is the world's most renowned and prestigious global celebration of adventure sports. For over two decades, the festival has been inspiring people in all corners of the globe with its annual

collection of adventure films. The tour brings the festival to 285 communities and 40 countries around the world, including Canada, the USA, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the South Pacific.

Event organiser Muntasir Mamun, said, "Adventure sports are a growing phenomenon in Bangladesh, and the aim of the Banff festival is to inspire that, to celebrate adventure around the world. It is a call to all Bangladeshis, to get off that couch and turn off that television. It is a call to ignite the spirit of adventure right here, to experience beautiful Bangladesh - climb the mountains of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, cycle the hills of Sylhet, surf the waves of Cox's Bazar."

Kewkradong Bangladesh also announced that they will soon be launching a competition for the best adventure films made in Bangladesh, to be screened in next year's film festival.

The writer is an Australian adventure sports enthusiast currently working in Bangladesh.

Generating awareness on AIDS

Partha Pratim Majumder features in a special TVC



ZAHANGIR ALOM

Internationally famed Bangladeshi mime maestro Partha Pratim Majumder is featured in a social awareness campaign, titled "Living with HIV". The campaign by Standard Chartered Bank (SCB), Bangladesh aims to generate public awareness on the scourge of AIDS in Bangladesh.

As part of its CSR, SCB actively campaigns against AIDS in more than 70 countries. In Bangladesh, SCB has conducted seminars at both public and private universities, addressing the stigma related to the disease, prior to producing the TVC.

The TVC has been on air on many Bangladeshi channels since December 1, marking international AIDS day.

"Every risky venture often meets a deadly outcome. In the TVC, I've been featured as a symbol of that fatality to alarm the urban youth of the outcomes of unsafe life decisions," said Partha Pratim Majumder.

Questioned on how this project will make an impact in Bangladesh, the artiste replied, "It is alarming that millions of people across the globe are getting affected by this lethal disease; and HIV is infecting more than 7,000 people everyday. I believe SCB's campaign will have a positive impact on Bangladeshis."

"I have tried to depict the causes of AIDS, including sexually transmitted diseases, substance abuse and not properly monitored blood transfusion. Working with Partha Pratim Majumder has been a remarkable experience," said Amitav Reza.

"As the prevalence of AIDS is a global reality, and Bangladesh too feels its impact, SCB has decided to make people aware of this deadly disease through this exclusive TVC. Globally renowned Bangladeshi mime artiste Partha Pratim Majumder has donned the lead role in the TVC, and noted filmmaker Amitav Reza has directed it," said Bitopi Das, corporate head of Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh.

TV WATCH

"Nij Grihe Porobashi" on Banglavision



A CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Nij Grihe Porobashi" will air on Banglavision at 8:15pm. Written by Zinat Hakim and directed by Azizul Hakim, the cast of the serial includes Jahanara Ahmed, Saberi Alam, Dolly Zahur, Tanveen Sweetey, Tania, Agun, Shahriar Nazim Joy and Ishana, among others. Family conflicts and dynamics constitute the plot of the serial, centered on the arrival of a newlywed to her in-laws' house.

The serial airs on Sundays and Mondays, at the same time.

Hopes of hosting an int'l dance fest in Dhaka

WDA-AP meet held in Taipei

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two-day Annual General Meeting (2013) of the World Dance Alliance - Asia Pacific (WDA-AP) concluded at Taipei, Taiwan on December 1. Lubna Marium, Vice-President (South Asia) of WDA-AP, participated in the meet, representing 'Nriyajog' - the Bangladesh Chapter of WDA-AP.

Besides presenting the Annual Report of 'Nriyajog' at the Conference, she also presented a scholarly paper on the various plural practices of performing arts in Bangladesh -- that was much appreciated by all delegates.

At the meeting, it was decided that a South-Asian and South-East Asian dance event would be organised in Dhaka in the winter of 2014, with participation by local and visiting dancers.

Talking to The Daily Star, Lubna Marium said the meet was to be held in Dhaka this year, but was shifted to Taipei due to the country's political instability. Next year the event will be held in Paris, but she informed that WDA-AP has urged 'Nriyajog' to propose to host the WDA-AP AGM for 2015 in Dhaka. She also said such events that feature hundreds of dancers from all parts of the world would be a great positive for Bangladesh in terms in 'image-building', at a time when the world is looking at it as a Muslim country where fundamentalists are making major inroads.

This year's event was hosted by the Dance Department of the University of Taipei and the Dance Research Society of Taiwan.



Lubna Marium (sitting, 4-L) with delegates of the WDA-AP delegates.