

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



Theatre

Play: Macbeth

Troupe: Padatik Natya Sangsad

Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy

Date: Dec 11

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



NEWS bytes

Billy Joel 'overwhelmed' by Kennedy Center honour



"Piano Man" singer Billy Joel has described being one of the five recipients of this year's Kennedy Center honours as "overwhelming". He was joined by actress Shirley MacLaine and composer Herbie Hancock at the ceremony in Washington. Rock guitarist Carlos Santana and opera singer Martina Arroyo were also saluted by President Obama at the White House.

The ceremony took place ahead of a concert at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on Sunday, which saw Kathy Bates pay tribute to fellow Oscar winner MacLaine, Tony Bennett eulogise Joel and Snoop Dogg take part in an on-stage celebration of Hancock's lasting influence.

Carlos Santana, Shirley MacLaine, Billy Joel, Herbie Hancock and Martina Arroyo with President Obama.

President Obama said the following day: "The diverse group of extraordinary individuals we honour today haven't just proven themselves to be the best of the best. Despite all their success, all their fame, they've remained true to themselves and inspired the rest of us to do the same."

The John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts has been honouring stars of the stage, screen and concert hall since 1978.

Source: BBC

Cultural activist recalls the Liberation War

Mustafa Monowar: The "Puppet King" goes down memory lane

KAVITA, New Delhi

The scenes from the refugee camps in West Bengal in 1971 are indelibly printed in Mustafa Monowar's mind: Grim, distressed faces and a deathly silence which enveloped everyone, including the children. "They were getting basic necessities such as food and clothes but laughter, which is crucial for human beings, was missing. Even the children did not play together. The trauma was

One old man in the refugee camp said it was the first time that he had laughed after a month.

tremendous because of the inhumanity of the Pakistani army. So I thought I would have puppet plays to boost the refugees' morale and bring back laughter in their lives," says Monowar, puppeteer, artist, director and producer of TV programmes and author of screen plays.

And he did do that through his puppet plays, such as "Agachha", "Rakhash" and "A brave farmer". The play with maximum impact was Agachha. Drawing a parallel



between unwanted weeds and the Pakistani oppressors, the play shows how the farmer pulls out the weeds that ruin his crop and throws them away just like the Pakistani rulers need to be weeded out before they destroy the ethos of the country.

The greatest accolade for Monowar was the audience's spontaneous laughter in the camps, particularly in Kalyanpur. Young and old alike joined in mirth fuelled by the satire. Monowar, as he admits, was

moved to tears at the response. "I was so emotional because I saw their laughter and joie de vivre had returned. I realised that it was almost as important to laugh as to have food," says the versatile artiste. One old man in the refugee camp said it was the first time that he had laughed after a month.

Another proud memory is of when Lear Levin, an American documentary filmmaker, visited the country and made a film on these puppets. Later, Tareque Masud added many shots to those taken by Levin and called his film "Muktir Gaan".

Coming back to the present, Monowar says puppetry is a very good medium for satire. Though Bangladeshi politicians are not accustomed to satire, he says he uses it subtly to lampoon them. Now he is busy with reviving folk stories and great writers of children's tales through puppetry. He has also worked on Hans Christian Andersen's "The Nightingale" and "The Ugly Duckling".

Meanwhile, Monowar is upbeat about the puppetry medium. As he says, "Puppetry is a great medium to learn aesthetics and painting. All art forms can be combined in puppetry—painting, voice and oratory, for example. It is a very important medium for children." And his delighted young and old fans would tend to agree.

GIANT FLAG

will be a cut above the rest
Robi and partners attempt to enter Guinness World Record on Victory Day

Robi Axiata Limited, in partnership with the Bangladesh Army, has announced the creation of the world's biggest Bangladesh Flag, to be revealed at the National Parade Ground, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, on Independence Day, says a press release.

This incredible attempt will start on the morning of December 16 with nearly 30,000 volunteers who will help shape the flag.

Each person will hold up a coloured placard and the 30,000 people will collectively create the largest flag in the world and shatter a standing Guinness World Record. The main objective of this event is not only to celebrate Victory Day this year but also show the world the inner strength and unity of the people of Bangladesh.

Guinness-accredited auditor will be present to oversee the attempt. After successful completion of the event all relevant documents and images will be sent to the Guinness World Record committee for validation.

Speaking at the press conference, Robi Chief Financial Officer, Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, thanked Major General Chowdhury Hasan Sarwady, Bir Bikram, ndc, psc, 9 Infantry Division and Area Commander, Savar Area, who was present at the press briefing as chief guest, and other officials of the Bangladesh Army for their all-out support in the initiative. He continued that "Through this event we can show the world that despite all perceived shortcomings we have discipline and unity and the strength that drives this proud nation to uphold its National Flag."

Pandit Ravi Shankar gets posthumous Grammy nomination

Indian sitar legend Pandit Ravi Shankar, who was awarded two Grammy honours earlier this year, has received a posthumous nomination in the 56th Annual Grammy Awards for his album "The Living Room Sessions Part 2".

The maestro breathed his last in a US hospital on December 11, 2012. He was 92.

A day after his death, he was named a Lifetime Achievement Grammy Award recipient and then at the 55th edition of the awards ceremony, he won the World Music Album award for "The Living Room Sessions Part 1".

His daughters Anoushka Shankar and Norah Jones collected the awards.

Pt Ravi Shankar's latest nomination is also in the World Music Album category. Other competitors are Gipsy Kings' "Savor Flamenco", Femi Kuti's "No Place For My Dream" and Ladysmith Black Mambazo' "Live: Singing For Peace Around The World", according to the nominations list on the official Grammy website.

Ang Lee's "Life Of Pi", a story of an Indian boy, also stands to win an award. It has received a nomination for composer Mychael Danna in the best score soundtrack for visual media category.

Overall, rapper Jay Z leads the nomination pack this year with nine nods while artists Kendrick Lamar, Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, Justin Timberlake and Pharrell Williams have garnered seven nods

each. Drake and mastering engineer Bob Ludwig will compete in five categories.

The nominations reflected one of the most diverse years, with the Album Of The Year category alone representing the rap, pop, country and dance/electronic genres.

"This year's nominations reflect the talented community of music makers who represent some of the highest levels of excellence and artistry of the year in their respective fields," Neil Portnow, president/CEO, The Recording Academy, said in a statement.

The 56th Annual Grammy Awards will be held on January 26, 2014 at Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Source: Internet



IT'S TRUE!



Jennifer Love Hewitt, known widely as an actress-producer and TV director, had her debut music album "Love Songs" (1992) launched at the age of 12, funded by Japanese music and video game company Meldac. The album was released exclusively in Japan, where Hewitt became a pop star. She signed a deal with Atlantic record, but after her two albums with the label "Let's go Bang" and "Jennifer Love Hewitt" failed to make the charts, she did not return to the music industry for three years. She has recorded soundtracks for her movies and TV shows since then, and released a fourth album in 2002, but has been inactive in music since 2004.

Begum Rokeya Day observed in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Divisional and district administrations, Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) and socio-cultural organisations of Rangpur observed Begum Rokeya Day on Monday.

To mark the 133rd birth and 81st death anniversary of Begum Rokeya, Rangpur district organised a three-day programme to observe Rokeya Day 2013 at her birthplace in Pairaband village under Mithapukur upazila.

Md. Delwar Bakht, Divisional Commissioner of Rangpur, inaugurated the celebrations by placing floral wreaths at the plaque of Begum Rokeya at Payeraband as chief guest.

Farid Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner of Rangpur and



Md. Zakir Hossain, Upazila Chairman of Mithapukur attended the ceremony as special guests.

Special prayers were offered for the departed soul of the pioneer of women education.

Begum Rokeya Smriti Sangsad of Payeraband, Begum Rokeya Forum, different non-government and socio-cultural organisations of Rangpur placed wreaths at the

memorial plaque of Begum Rokeya.

In the morning teachers, students and officials of BRUR brought out a rally led by Professor Dr. AKM Nur-un-Nabi, Vice Chancellor (VC) of BRUR.

The birth and death anniversary of the social reformer are being officially observed as Rokeya Day since 1994.

"Victory through My Lens"

Samsung organises photography exhibition

Samsung Electronics Bangladesh Branch office has organised a photography exhibition, "Victory through My Lens" at Rabindra Sarobar, Dhanmondi. The exhibition began on December 10 and concludes on December 11, says a press release.

Now in the 42nd year of victory and edging towards a prosperous 43rd year, 43 brilliant photographs have been displayed at the exhibition.

Through an online photography contest on Samsung Camera Facebook fan page, 14 selected contestants were taken through various locations of Bangladesh, where they took photographs of monuments dedicated to the Liberation War and victory using Samsung Smart Cameras. The best 43 photographs have been showcased at the exhibition.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Samsung Electronics Bangladesh Ltd's Managing Director, Choon Soo Moon, who said "These photographs are not only a witness of the glorious past but also an inspiration towards a prosperous tomorrow."

Also present at the event were prominent photographer Nasir Ali Mamun, celebrity photographer Iresh Zaker, and Freedom Fighter and trustee of Liberation War Museum Akku Chowdhury.



Fairy tales and dreams...

Solo exhibition by Kazi Barin

FAYZA HAQ

Kazi Barin's solo exhibition at Dhaka Art Centre drew waves of young art lovers.

Like many artists, Barin believes that happiness and peace lies in a return to nature—a philosophy propounded by Nietzsche. Barin's buoyant works are peppered with myths and fairytales surrounding mermaids, sea shells, flying horses, muscular men with wings, beautiful, bejewelled women, floating to the notes of a "bansari" (flute). They also revolve around statuesque, long-limbed women with red tresses and bat wings, courted by a man with a sickle and scales on his calves. Giant roses, ruby lilies and yellow daisies dot his images. His fairies are found among tree trunks with leaves, and tender tree shoots. Even though such works are crafted with ballpoint pen on paper the picture is idyllic and enchanting.

Masks, flying birds, tiny pyramids in burnt-sienna, a sunflower, a purple bird with the visage of a boy, gliding by, uncurling leaves, emerald fish, shapely women and strong men with bulging biceps and greenish wings appear in one of Barin's pictures. The artist's works are full of energy and dramatic thoughts. His canvases and paper are filled with birds, bees, flowers, fish and courting men and women—found in harmonious and joyous co-existence. "Our nature is dying and I cannot take it anymore," says the despondent artist. A golden tail-swinging lion, pink and white lily buds float on a river. A purple peacock, with a gold and pink crest is visible. Piping pink male angels, and others playing the guitar or the harp, shaded blue and purple are added to the shower of music from the heaven. A lady in purple remains the centre of the painting. She too plays a guitar-like instrument, resting on a grassy bank, with yellow and white daisies. The reason why music plays a lead role in many of Barin's work is because he is a musician himself and is a member of two bands, like many young artists today. He says his exhibition is the outcome of his rich imagination.

One image has a man with tiny elephants and trees at the back. Along with this are butterflies and a disc of the sun. This picture is done in gold. He had also

done a replica of a drawing by Leonardo da Vinci. Both centre on angels. The swirls of drapery took the place of the wings, says the young painter, in his early 30s. There is a lady with a tiny nymph with flowers over her. The lady symbolises the mother image, who is always beautiful, says Barin. The rose is green, a rare species of the flower. Near her hair are flowers that appear akin to the "krishnachura". Yet, Barin's drawings are not the reproduction of reality, for imagination guides and carries him onwards. There are three ripples of waves. A mermaid is depicted in another image. She is being courted by a demon, which looks like a satyr with his horns. There are a red crab, a cactus tree and a dragon, added to them, which create an element of fear and danger.



"When I open my eyes in the morning, I hear joyful birds singing --making every morning a good one. This inspires me and tells me a new story every day. I see miracles creating wonders which pushes me beyond the horizon. But the sky is full of nuclear parts. Even the birds need to breathe," says the artist.

One picture is inspired by Zainul Abedin's and SM Sultan's figure drawings. There is a figure carrying food for the countrymen. "Our people don't have enough to eat and yet they must plod on," says the artist, who believes in glorifying the people of Bangladesh.

The artist has studied at the Institute of Fine Arts, DU.