

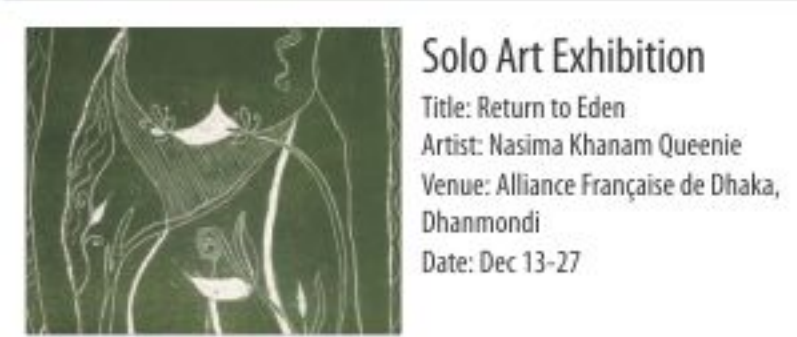
WHAT'S ON



Classical Music Fest
Organiser: Chhayanaut
Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium,
Dharmoadi
Date: December 19-20
1st day from 6pm; 2nd day from



Annual Art Exhibition
Organisers: Shilpakala Academy
and Dhaka Art College
Venue: National Art Gallery,
Shilpakala Academy
Date: Dec 9-21



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Return to Eden
Artist: Nasima Khanam Quennie
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka,
Dharmoadi
Date: Dec 13-27



**Selina Bahar Zaman
Commemorative
Speech**
Speaker: Professor Rafiqul Islam
Venue: Muktyjuddho Jadhgar
Date: Dec 20, Time: 4pm



Poush Mela 1420
Organiser: Poush Mela Uddahan
Parishad
Venue: Ramna Botanical
Date: Dec 20-22
Time: 7am-9pm



Photography Exhibition
Title: Eternal Japan
Venue: Bengali Shilpalaya,
Dharmoadi
Date: Dec 21-25
Time: 12pm-8pm



Architectural Exhibition
Architect: Kasher Chowdhury
Venue: Bengali Art Lounge,
Gulshan
Date: Dec 13-Jan 13
Time: 12pm-9pm



Theatre
Play: Sitar Agniaponkhla
Troupe: Sudhona
Venue: Natmandi, Dhaka
University
Date: Dec 21
Time: 6pm

ROZINA

the feisty fighter

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Celebrated actress Rozina is a multiple National Film Award winner. In her lengthy acting career, she has received the adulation of millions. Besides Bangladesh, she has acted in the films of Kolkata, Nepal and Karachi.

Originally from Rajbari district, Rozina's family name was Renu. As a child she often visited cinema halls and dreamt of seeing herself on the silver screen. The first movie she watched at Chitra Cinema Hall in Rajbari was "Saat Bhai Champaa". Rozina started her career as a theatre artist. On her arrival in Dhaka, she played a character in the drama "Shaistaganj". But a moment after the start of the stage show, it came to halt due to a disruption. Later, through her theatre association, she met some film artistes and was offered a minor role in the film "Janwar". She received an honorarium of merely Taka 10 for the project.

Subsequently, Rozina enrolled for dance classes at BAEA. In the meantime, she turned her sights to serious acting in cinema. She signed up for a film "Mintu Amar Naam" directed by AJ Mintu where she was expected to be cast against Soheli Rana. In a cruel twist of fate, however, she was dropped from the movie eventually. Her name was changed to Rozina from Renu for the movie by director Mohiuddin.

Not one to give up, she stayed at Eskaton and made her way through acting in plays. A few days later, she was dropped from two other films "Sagar Bhasa" and "Aina".

But the undeterred Rozina didn't lose sight of the big screen. Although Rozina she had no film offers, she continued working with Fakhrul Hasan

Bairagi and Chatku Ahmed in plays.

Finally her persistence paid off. In 1977, she was offered the role of heroine in the film "Rajmahal" directed by F Kabir Chowdhury where her co-star was the then heartthrob Wasim. The movie became hugely popular and brought her to the spotlight.

Soon, she became very busy with a number of films based on social themes as well as action and drama.

The actress became a regular face on the silver screen till 1993. Her assignments included "Chokher Moni", "Sonar Cheya Dami", "Matir Manush", "Shohor Theke Dure", "Abhiman", "Anarkali", "Bini Sutar Mala", "Rakhe Allah Mare Ke", "Sohag Milon", "Sathi Maa", "Taser Ghar", "Goli Theke Rajpath", "Shiri Farhad", "Bhagali", "Daku o Darbesh", "Warish", "Rangin Rupban", "Hasu Amar Hasu", "Roshor Baidani", "Razia Sultana", "Kosai", "Jibon Dhara" and "Sabuj Mia".

Rozina acted in around 350 films of Dhaka, Kolkata, Nepal and Karachi. In 1980, she first won the National Film Award for "Kasai". In 1984, she was accorded an award for the film "Suruj Mia" and for "Jibondhara" in 1988.

Her Tollywood movie "Abichar" was dubbed in Hindi and Bengali. She was rarely seen in front of the camera after 1993. However, she made a return in the Bangladeshi film "Rakkhushi" in 2005.

Rozina has been absent from the big screen for the last few years. In the meantime, she has recently directed two serials "Mejiddi" and "Borodidi" based on the novels of Sharat Chandra Chattopadhyay. Moreover, she played the title role in "Mejiddi". In addition, she made a play "Badnam" based on the story by Rabindranath Tagore. She also made several TV plays based on the story of Kazi Nazrul Islam.



Kabir Chowdhury's second death anniversary



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

December 13 marked the second death anniversary of educationist, translator and author Kabir Chowdhury. He was also one of the pioneering figures of the movement against fundamentalism in Bangladesh.

Chowdhury was born in 1923 in Brahmanbaria. His family hailed from Noakhali.

With a master's in English literature -- graduating in 1944 from Dhaka University -- Chowdhury was the Education Secretary in 1972, immediately after the Liberation War when his younger brother Shaheed Munir Chowdhury was killed by the local collaborators of the Pakistani army.

Chowdhury was member-secretary of the first National Education Commission under Dr. Kudrat-e-Khuda and later, became the Education, Sports and Cultural Affairs secretary.

Chowdhury also played a major role as the director of Bangla Academy from early 1969 to mid-1972 in propagating secular values during the mass movements in the period. He was made the National Professor in 1988.

He headed several organisations that worked for secular democracy, such as the Ekkattor Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, Citizens' Social Rights Movement and Citizens United Front. He worked closely with the late Jahanara Imam in trying to bring to book the killers of 1971 as war criminals.

Kabir Chowdhury acted as chairman of the Bangladesh Afro-Asian Writers Union for many years. He was also a member of the presidium of the Bangladesh World Peace Council and the Bangladesh Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organisation.

In his long career, Chowdhury spoke at many national and international meetings of writers and social activists on literature, socialism, secularism and democracy. He addressed gatherings in Germany, Russia, USA, Bulgaria, Angola, Japan, Pakistan and India.

For his contributions to education, literature and civil society movements, Kabir Chowdhury was nationally and internationally honoured. Among the numerous awards he received were the Bangla Academy Literary Award, Ekushey Padak, Shadinota Padak, Bangabandhu National Award, Mohammad Nasiruddin Literary Award, Sher-e-Bangla Award and India's William Carey Award.

The first woman painter of Bangladesh

Remembering Chitraniha Chowdhury

FAYZA HAQ

Chitraniha Chowdhury was the first woman artist of Bangladesh. If she had lived, she would be a hundred years old on December 13. She was given the nickname Nibha Noni by Rabindranath Tagore who recognised her immense talent. She was born in 1913 in Chandpur.

Since she was still a schoolgirl, Chitraniha's painting talent earned her fame in the neighbourhood. At the time, a Noakhali politician, Monoranjan Chowdhury -- leader of the Swadeshi Andolan in that area -- visited Chandpur, and was impressed by the wedding "piri" painted by her. He asked about the identity of the painter and was able to meet her. He was inspired equally by her skill and knowledge of music and literature. It so happened that they were searching for a suitable bride for his younger brother. He advanced the marriage proposal to her parents, and promised to send her to Shantiniketan to study art.

Coming to Dhaka, her brother-in-law Professor J.K. Chowdhury of the DU Chemistry Dept. asked her to create a mural in his house at 12 Topkhana Road, Shugunbagicha. After the partition of 1947, this house passed into the ownership of Tafazzal Ali, father of Reza Ali,

whose wife is the well-known singer Naima Ali. They renovated the building but preserved the painting. Unfortunately though, famous painters like Qamrul Hassan and Zainul Abedin visited that house, but they did not notice or give their feedback about the painting, and the painting, a milestone in contemporary art, went unrecognised. The painting was destroyed three years ago when the house was sold and the artwork was painted over.

Recently, an original drawing on paper of this mural and some photographs of this work has been discovered, portraying rural life. Her other pictures were preserved by her daughter, a renowned Rabindra Sangeet artiste, Chitralekha Chowdhury, some of which were painted at Noakhali, the home of her in-laws. For many years, Chitraniha Chowdhury stayed at Noakhali from 1937. There she opened a school of handicrafts and artwork for aged women.

Chitraniha's contribution to Bengal is enormous. She was a singer, artist and social activist. She died in her home in Kolkata in 1999. Although she is an important figure in the history of contemporary art, she has not got the recognition that is rightfully hers.

(As narrated by Nisar Hussain, a senior Professor of Department of Fine Arts DU)



Artworks by Chitraniha Chowdhury.

Manna Dey

A desolate departure

SYED MAQSUD JAMIL

Death is mankind's destiny. Manna Dey had a long journey-- 94 years. But it was a desolate departure; away from home, unheralded and a forsaken funeral. He shifted to Bangalore (now Bengaluru) two decades back and his wife Sulochana died in 2012. His elder daughter Suruma, an expatriate living in America, is suffering from cancer. He was critically ill during the last few months. The matter was compounded by allegations of defalcation of Rs12 lakhs in cash and jewellery worth Rs 15 lakh rupees by his nephew. It created resentment in the family when there was no action from the West Bengal government even when his help was solicited. So the irate younger daughter Sumita would not have anything to do with a grand funeral in Kolkata.

And Manna Dey went unsung with a handful of mourners present. The funeral procession to Hebbal crematorium was lamentable. His dead body was placed on the hay covered hold of a tempo carrier with a white shroud overhead. "Not a drum was heard, not a funeral note, / As his corse to the rampart we hurried; / Not a soldier discharged his funeral shot..." It was a deeply touching scene to the lovers of his songs, nay, all Bengali songs.

He was an artiste of indomitable qualities, a singer who carried his own unique mark. His singing style was his own, the intonation set him apart as an inimitable singer endowed with a natural gift; his articulation was impeccable, be it in Bengali or Hindi. Many Hindi songs for a number of actors have created memorable visual impressions. Calm and composed Balraj Sahni had a mystic appeal on his face in the film "Seema" with Manna Dey singing "Tu pyar ka sagar hai teri ek bund ke pyase hum". The same Balraj Sahni in the film "Kabuliwala" had Manna Dey singing "Ay mere pyare watan" that sounded like recital of verses from a holy scripture.

Ashok Kumar was in the lead role in the movie "Teri Surat Meri Aankhen". Manna Dey sang that gem of a classical

song "Pooncho na kaise maine rain bitae ek pal jaise ek jug bita". For the movie "Anand" Manna Dey sang for Rajesh Khanna "Zindagi kaisi hai paveli have". For the blockbuster hit movie "Sholay" Manna Dey sang "Ye dosti hum nahin toreng" with Kishore Kumar. Raj Kapoor's dependence on Mukesh was broken when Manna Dey sang "Yet Raat Bheegi Bheegi" for the film "Chori Chori". "Pyar Hua Iqraar Hua", a duet with Lata Mangeshkar, was no less popular.

Manna Dey was Bengal's very own son. The genres in the variety of his Bengali songs are amazing! Human emotion with all its diversity finds harmony in the mastery he displays in articulating it. Love in Manna Dey's songs explores many thoughts. "Kotodin dekhini tomac" pines over a beloved lost. This kind of song softly settles on the pain of loss and heals the wound that won't go away. Manna Dey's songs dwell on everyday pain and pleasure that make life a wonder. The quest of happiness is a co-traveller of rigours of living. When Manna Dey sings "Sobai to sukhi hote chaye keu hoi keu hoi na" the heart tries to come to terms with it. Yet the pursuit goes on. The cardinal fact about Manna Dey's songs is that he kept on experimenting with the Bengali ethos, thoughts and fulfillment in relationships and in exploring the nuances of life. His melancholia - when his tune casts a spell "Ami aaj akasher moto ekle" or his deeply modulated anguish, "Ami sara raat shudhu jese bhebechi", or "Ami phool na hoye kanta hoye besch chilam" or "Deep chhilo shikha chhilo" or the earnest pleading of a lover "Abar hobe to dekha e dekhai shesh dekha hoy to".

His self-introspection "Majh raate ghum bhenge jai" is deeply felt. He defines love in terms of sacrifice and the depth of commitment singing "K photo chokher jol phelecho je tumi bhalobashbe". Manna Dey's songs have a whole range of pictorial elements. When Manna Dey sings of courtship in love he endows it such romantic flair that listeners find enchanting - such as "Sundari go

dohai dohai maan koro na", "mishit eka gondhio royeche ghara jure", "O keno eto sundari holo" and many more. His Radha-Krishna love lore style evergreen song "O sokhi onno lore style chhola o Lolita". His love-love lover's wistful longing "Khub jante ichhe kore". Some other songs of the same genre are "Jani tomar premer joggio ami to noi" and "Ami niralae bosey bhedhechi amar shorono bin". Perhaps "O amar mon jomun ongey ongey bhab toronge" is an offering to love of the highest order. "Ami Sri Sri Bhojohori Manna" and "Na na na aaj raate ar jatra shunte jabo na" are happy go lucky ringleader's rambunctious song.

Where one can rightfully end while dwelling on Manna Dey's Bengali songs! It will be proper to leave the matter to the listener, as Mohammad Rafi said, "When you listen to my songs I listen to Manna Dey's songs". What a classic camaraderie. Let this effort go on when I speak of "Menechi go haar menechi", "Pusher kachakachi roud makha sei din phire aar asbe ki kokhono", "Se amar choto bon boro adorer choto bon". A popular Bengali song by Haimonti Shukla "Amar bolar kichu chilo na" is a composition by Manna Dey. When nostalgia is a blissful state what can be better than "Coffee Houser Addata" - the everlasting melody.

Manna Dey is the stage name of Probodh Chandra Dey. He was born in Simley, a place near Vivekananda's birthplace in Calcutta. Sangeetacharya Krishna Chandra Dey was his uncle and he went to Bombay with him in 1942. There he debuted as playback singer for the film "Tamanna" under Krishna Chandra Dey. He started working as assistant director under Krishna Chandra Dey and later under Sachin Dey Burman. Onwards he started composing his own songs. His duet with Suraiya, "Jago Aayee Usha Ponchi Boley Jago", was a super hit. In his lifetime he sang 4,000 songs. He was born on May 1, 1919 and died on October 24, 2013.

The writer is a music and film buff.

NEWS bytes

Lawrence slams 'weight commenters'



Actress Jennifer Lawrence has said she thinks "it should be illegal to call someone fat on TV", after red carpet criticism of her own figure. Speaking to US host Barbara Walters, The Hunger Games star added: "Because why is humiliating people funny?" The 23-year-old actress, who plays Katniss Everdeen in the teen franchise, said she was worried about how the media's attitude affected young people.

"I get it, and I do it too, we all do it," the actress told Walters. "But the media needs to take responsibility for the effect that it has on our younger generation, on these girls who are watching these television shows, and picking up how to talk and how to be cool," Lawrence said.

The film actress -- who won an Oscar earlier this year for her performance in "Silver Linings Playbook" -- has previously spoken out against gossip magazines and TV shows such as E!'s Fashion Police, which criticise the way women look.

Source: BBC

FUNDRAISING

exhibition at Garden Gallery

A CORRESPONDENT

Gallery Cosmos and Atelier 71 recently organised a fundraising exhibition titled "Art for Humanity" at Garden Gallery at Baridhara, in the city. On the same day there was the reception to commemorate Romanian National Day at the venue.

The exhibition was organised in aid of the victims struck by the deadly typhoon Haiyan -- that brought massive destruction last month in the central Philippines, leaving people in untold misery and loss.

The participating artists were Abdus Shakoor Shah, Kalidas Karmakar, Biren Shome, Alakesh Ghosh, Jamal Ahmed, Afroza Jamil Konka, Ashit Mitra, Azmeer Hossain, Bipasha Hayat, Bishwajit Soshwami, Nagarbashi Barman, Proshanta Karmakar, Sourav Chowdhury and others. Besides, from the collection of Gallery Cosmos, many senior and promising artists' artworks were also on display at the exhibition.

Proceeds from sales of the paintings will go to the typhoon-affected people.

The mediums used included watercolour, acrylic, oil, mixed media and more. There were artworks done in realistic, semi-realistic, figurative, surrealist, abstract-expressionism, non-figurative, folk with techniques using varied compositions, colours, textures, lines and forms.



Visitors at the exhibition.

IN CONVERSATION

"Classical Music is the solemnest prayer"

-- Goutam Sarker

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Goutam Kumar Sarker is one of the most dedicated tabla artistes in the country. Hailing from a musical family of Satkhira, he along with tabla artistes -- Iftekhar Alam Pradhan, Swarup Hossain and Zakir Hossain performed in a quartet at this year's Bengal Classical Music Festival (BCMF). In a conversation with The Daily Star ahead of Chhayanaut's classical music festival, the artiste and teacher shared his musical passion and journey so far.

According to Goutam -- "Classical Music is the solemnest way of prayer. The artistes say their prayers through rendering or reciting the refined melody. Melody is, in a word, the Brahmma. The important thing is that I always keep myself immersed in the practice and perseverance of my musical pursuit."

"Becoming a good artiste necessitates tireless practice, patience and perseverance. To play tabla is a tough job. Legendary singer Hemanta Mukherjee never trained in classical music; but he was gifted with a melodious voice. When he went to learn classical music under Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, the maestro told him that your voice is all set to perform. A vocalist may such a privilege of having a God-gifted voice; but for tabla, none can play it without proper training. A clear conception of beats and swift hands are a must."

"Classical music, a priceless resource, has its roots in our sub-continental musical legacy. Anyone, attracted to the genre, may learn it like any other performing art. For me, it can nourish and embellish each and every form of music. I am not advocating for stopping band music; rather my view zooms in on the point that the band artistes, gradually entering into the realm of classical music, can further embellish their own compositions and performances. Any musician can be benefited from taking lessons on classical music."

Goutam's formal tabla lessons began at the age of six under his uncle Pandit Moloy Kumar Sarker in Kolkata, India. Later, he took lessons from Pandit

Rabin Banerjee. His academic lessons on tabla started at Chhayanaut Sangeet Bidiyatan in 2001. At Chhayanaut, he took lessons from Pandit Madan Gopal Das and secured first class with first position. In 2003, he also came first in Inter University Competition of Bangladesh.

He is now a tabla teacher at the Classical Music Department of Chhayanaut. "Getting involved with Chhayanaut is a great opportunity for me, because the cultural organisation and school not only provides lessons on performing arts but also inspires all its pupils to become true human beings. Students at Chhayanaut can learn to think differently, love their motherland and above all tread the path of becoming a Shwashoto Bangalee," Goutam says.

On his performance in a tabla quartet on the opening night of the BCMF he said, "I was very fortunate to perform on such a platform where many great maestros performed. It is really a landmark for my career" a beaming Goutam asserts.

Goutam a regular artiste of Radio and Television besides his musical endeavours, is a computer engineer and works with telecommunication company Grameenphone.



CHARM OF KOREA III held

On the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and South Korea (December 18), a musical concert titled "Charm of Korea III" was held on December 18 at the residence of the Korean Ambassador at Madani Avenue, Baridhara in the capital. Government high-ups, military officials, business leaders and members of diplomatic corps

enjoyed performances by the seven-member Korean band that performed a variety of songs and music, and traditional Bangla songs by Nobonita Chowdhury and Labik Kamal Gourab, says a press release.

Mustafa Kamal, Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was the chief guest at the programme.



Mimi's big day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Here's wishing happy birthday to popular TV actress and director Afsana Mimi. Although she hasn't any grand celebrations on the cards, she will let her hair down -- even if she briefly has to pop into her office.

Birthday presents, especially books, are welcome. And of course she will be showered with birthday greetings from her close friends, family and of course her fans. As every year, her office colleagues will cut cakes to mark the day.

Mimi has vivid childhood memories of birthday celebrations at her maternal uncle's home in Bagerhat district. December every year meant a visit to Bagerhat with her mother where she would celebrate her birthday at a school in vacation time.

Talking to The Daily Star, the actress said that next to her parents, legendary actress Sharmila "Maa" is the most important person in her life. And Sharmila, she said, gives her a cash present so she can buy a saree on her birthday every year.

Mimi also distinctly remembers that while the play "Kacher Manush" was being telecast, the entire troupe, including Subarna Mostofa and Alamgir, visited her office out of the blue to wish her on her birthday. The friends then dined together.

Meanwhile, the actress is busy with a daily soap for ATN Bangla. Besides she has directed a movies. Shooting has been wrapped up recently, she said.

