

## WHAT'S ON

Zainul Quamrul  
ExhibitionVenue: Nalin Kanta Bhattacharya  
Gallery, National Museum

Date: Dec 22-Jan 18

Time: 10am-8pm



Theatre

Title: The Trial of Mallam Ily

Venue: Natmandala, Dhaka

University

Date: Jan 1-3

Time: 7pm



Group Art Exhibition

Title: Shilpacharya and his Other

Work of Art

Venue: Bengal Shilpalya, H-42, R-

16, Dharmodi

Date: Dec 28-Jan 8



Concert

Band: Chhayanavado

Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural

Centre, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1

Date: Jan 3

Time: 6:30pm



Theatre

Play: Baramkana

Troupe: Theatra

Venue: National Theatre Hall,

Shilpakala Academy

Date: Jan 4



Concert

Band: Shironamini

Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural

Centre, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1

Date: Jan 10

Time: 6:30pm



Theatre

Play: Pyar Bolar Bala

Troupe: Noyabdur

Venue: Studio Theatre Hall,

Shilpakala Academy

Date: Jan 4

Time: 6pm



NEWS

## bytes



## Nasa rebukes Beyoncé

US singer Beyoncé has been rebuked by Nasa for using an audio clip from the Challenger shuttle disaster in a new song.

"XO", from Beyoncé's new album, begins with a six-second clip taken from television footage as the shuttle exploded and fell to earth on January 28, 1986, killing all seven crew.

Steve Nesbitt, a Nasa public affairs official, is heard saying: "Flight controllers here looking very carefully at the situation. Obviously a major malfunction."

Nasa issued a statement saying: "The Challenger accident is an important part of our history: a tragic reminder that space exploration is risky and should never be trivialised."

Beyoncé had said the audio was included "in tribute to the unsung work of the Challenger crew".

But Keith Cowing, a former Nasa employee, described the sample as "inappropriate in the extreme".

"XO" is the first radio single from Beyoncé's new album, which was released without advance publicity on December 16.



Roland Lamb in his element.

Arnob on his guitar.

Presenting ... The Seaboard  
Roland Lamb's futuristic instrument gets a Dhaka showing

FAHMIM FERDOUS

When I was asked to cover a musical programme featuring a musician who has 'invented' a new instrument, I was certainly intrigued, especially because I wasn't told much about the instrument or the event. But knowing that Arnob would be performing there gave me the impression that this would be good.

As I entered the auditorium of the Red Shift Coffee Lounge, I looked on-stage for the said instrument. Apart from the usual guitar, bass and cajon, there it was: a black keyboard-like thing connected to a laptop computer, but with no visible keys.

As the small but discerning audience settled in, writer-columnist Tahmina Anam welcomed the audience, and introduced her husband, Roland Lamb, the mastermind behind the Seaboard. She noted that Roland started the project in 2008, looking to make a keyboard that could bend notes, and play between them. After a few years of research -- that included smoking out from under the doors, strange machines in the house to Roland himself learning computer programming to design the instrument -- and grants from the Royal College of Arts and from the UK government, the seaboard was a reality. Now, musicians like Stevie

Wonder and Hans Zimmer were interested in possessing the instrument.

Roland was accompanied by Arnob (vocal/guitar), Labik (vocal/cajon), Tiash (guitar), Saad (keys) and Samir (bass). They performed a number of Ormon's popular songs, along with two Tagore songs, a Baul song and a Bhatiali.

Being an avid fan of Arnob and Labik -- and a regular concert-goer once, I'd heard all these songs live before (apart from one song by Labik), but what struck me was the dimensions brought into them with the Seaboard. It produced sounds ranging from as modern as ambient to as old-fashioned as a church-organ. It was groovy and funky when required, soft and mellow at other times, and sometimes just dark and depressing. The versatility of the instrument was awe-inspiring: it's no secret that the electronic keyboard is a very versatile instrument, throw in the options to slide and sweep between notes and volume modulation just by touch, and you have one of the most 'complete' instruments around. It sounded like the electric guitar, slide guitar, the synth (or to the more imaginative mind, maybe the theremin), and sometimes even resembled the Irish tin flute or sax, and on a few occasions, hit notes with the timbre of a crash cymbal.

A lot of people crowded the seaboard, their looks a mix of inquisitive and impressed, as I headed out, happy to have started a New Year with some awesome music, and an instrument with endless possibilities and potentially great popularity among musicians cutting through the spectrum of genres.



The audience in rapt attention...

## Bulbul Chowdhury remembered

Bulbul Chowdhury, the pioneer of modern dance in the country, was remembered through a commemorative programme on his 94th birth anniversary at the auditorium of National Art Gallery on January 1, according to a press release.

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) and Bangladesh Nrityashilpi Sangstha jointly organised the programme.

Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Dr. Gohar Rizvi attended the programme as chief guest. Cultural Affairs Secretary Ranjit Kumar Biswas, theatre personality Nasir Uddin Youssuf and Additional Secretary of the Finance Ministry Imdadul Haque addressed the event as special guests. President of Nritya Shilpi Sangstha Minu Haque and its general secretary Mahfuzur Rahman attended the programme, among others. Liaquat Ali Lucky, DC of BSA presided over the occasion. The speakers elaborated on Chowdhury's life and contributions to dance.

Renowned dance artiste

Mohammad Golam

Mostafa

Khan

was conferred the 'Bulbul Padak

2013

for his outstanding contribu-

tions

to dance.

Later,

18 dancers from 18 dance

troupe

s, including Minu Haque,

Deepa Khondaker,

Munmun

Ahmed,

Kabirul Islam

Ratan,

Tabassum

Ahmed,

Selina Haque,

Fatema Kashem and Farhana

Chowdhury

gave a scintillating

dance performance.

## The winning voice

Mong crowned the first Bangladeshi Idol

STAFF

CORRESPONDENT

Small town boy from Bandarban district, Mong was an unheard of name in the country. But ever since he was crowned the first Bangladeshi Idol on SA TV he has been showered with attention from the Bangladeshi and international music industry.

Mong's success story dates to his emer-

gence in the top ten of the musical reality

show. To add to his credentials he reached

the top five and top three positions. Finally

to the delight of his admirers and the people

of the Bandarban hill district, he walked

away with the title of Bangladeshi Idol.

As the first Bangladeshi Idol, Mong

received a prize of Taka 10 lakh and a brand

new car. In addition, he received Taka 6 lakh

from Bandarban Zila Parishad. He also

received similar awards from several organi-

sations. But to Mong, the love of the people

community in our country. Their miseries, struggle and varied social dilemmas are recurring subjects of his works. He wrote about the exploited people in his

novels, poems, plays and books for

children, essays and more. Some of his

notable literary works are "Boni Adam",

"Chaurasandhi",

"Raja Upakhyan",

"Jahannam Hafe Biday",

"Dui Sainik",

"Nekre Aranya",

"Patanga Pinjar" and

"Rajalskhi".

Mong's writings feature the down-

trodden, particularly the disadvantaged

is his greatest award.

The marvel of Mong's story is that he

never

received any formal training in music

but was a self-taught artiste.

Though he

displayed his musical talent early on, his

family couldn't afford to engage a music

teacher and dissuaded him from following

his dream. However, after this outstanding

achievement, his family dreams of Mong

reaching greater heights.

Mong wants no time to spare after his recent

success. He is flooded with offers to partici-

pate in TV programmes and stage shows. He

is also pestered by the media for interviews

and photo shoots.

Mong wants to complete his HSC that

was disrupted

when he went to participate in

the Bangladeshi Idol contest.

He also wants

to train under an Ustad. Needless to say, he

wants to dedicate himself to singing and

achieve even greater recognition in the future.

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