

WHAT'S ON

Art Exhibition

Title: Rivers of the World

Venue: Dhaka Art Center, Dhanmondi and Rabindra Sarobar, Dhanmondi Lake

Date: Jan 16-19

Time: 3pm-8pm

PUBLIC ARTWORK EXHIBITION

FOR THE WORLD

Solo Exhibition

Title: Gravity-Free World

Artist: A. Rahman

Venue: Bengal Gallery

Date: Jan 18-31

Time: 12pm-8pm

Concert

Band: Porobashi

Venue: EMK Center, H-5, R-16, Dhanmondi

Date: Jan 22

Time: 6pm

Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Bahram

Venue: Dhaka Art Center, H-60, R-7/A, Dhanmondi

Date: Jan 10-22

Time: 3pm-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Bilash

Venue: Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts, Waizghat

Date: Jan 17-31

Time: 10am-5pm

Suchitra Sen mourned in Pabna

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Pabna residents are deeply shocked at the demise of the legendary actress Suchitra Sen who hailed from Pabna. The world has lost the queen of filmndom but the people of Pabna have lost their most famous daughter of the district, speakers said at a condolence meeting held at the Pabna Press club auditorium on Friday night.

Organised by Suchitra Sen Smrity Shangrkhan Parishad (SSSSP), the condolence meeting recalled the contribution of Sen to the world of films. President of SSSSP, Pabna Md. Saidul Haque Chunnu chaired the meeting. Cultural activists, journalists and a cross section of the society were present.

Sen was born on April 6, 1931 at her maternal grandfather's village Bhangabari of Belkuchi upazila under Greater Pabna. She spent her childhood and her youth at her father's village Gopalpur in Pabna town before leaving the country in 1947.

Sen's home was grabbed by Imam Gazzali School, a pro-Jamaat institution three decades ago and there is no sign that the estate will be recovered from the illegal occupants due to a prolonged legal battle. People of the district have staged demonstrations to call for the restoration of historic house from Jamaat's hands.

The restoration of Sen's house is not merely a local demand but a national demand as well, said the speakers. They advanced the view that the government should set up an archive or museum at Sen's ancestral home.

Among the speakers were, secretary of SSSSP Dr. Ram Dulal Bhoumik, veteran journalist Ronaish Maitra, Anwarul Haque, president of Pabna Press Club Shibojit Nag, principal of Shahid Shadhn Music College Abdul Matin Khan, president of Pabna Drama Circle Sirajul Islam Hira, secretary of Ekushey Boimela Udzpan Parishad Zakir Hossain and headmaster of Pabna Government Girls High School Aliza Khatun.

Tributes pour in for Suchitra

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Suchitra Sen's popularity among the people of West Bengal and Bangladesh remains unmatched decades after she graced the silver screen. The songs she lip-synced are still a rage and she is still the reference point for upcoming actresses.

Well-known British film critic Derek Malcolm once said: "She was very, very beautiful. She had this 'still' quality. She did not need to do a lot of 'acting'."

Among the most memorable performances of Sen was her depiction of the trauma of a woman unable to hold on to her marriage in "Saat Pake Bandha" and the role of a emotionally-traumatised woman who temporarily loses her vision in "Sagarika".

Sen was a trendsetter in many respects -- one of them being she had posed scantily-clothed for modelling and another being her entry into films five years after her marriage--something unimaginable in those days.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh condoled the death of Suchitra Sen saying she had "carved a special niche in the hearts of millions of Indians through her graceful cinematic presence. Sen's versatility and range of performances, in a career spanning nearly three decades, mark a unique contribution to Indian cinema, and to Bengali films in particular".

The entire Bengali cinema industry and Bollywood paid rich tributes to Suchitra Sen, recalling her mesmerising beauty and strong portrayal of roles in films.

Bollywood veteran Amitabh Bachchan remembered Suchitra for her beauty, grace, enigma and acting prowess.

Bengali cinema superstar Prosenjit Chatterjee posted on Twitter, "It's a great loss for Bengali Cinema and Indian Cinema Maha Nayika is no more..."

Actress Rituparna Sengupta, who is set to reprise Sen's iconic character Debi Chowdhurani, said "She was a great symbol of women empowerment. She was not only known in Bengali film industry but also in the international cinema. I look up to her. She lived in the minds of people and is remembered for her beautiful smile and the aura."

Bollywood star Sridevi tweeted "an actor par excellence, a divine beauty, a legend and an icon who will inspire generations to come."

"RIP Suchitra Sen... Real inspiration... How to detach yourself from the Stardom and Film world ... Spiritual power," tweeted director Shoojit Sircar.

Filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar said her demise will be a great loss to the Bengali cinema. "Suchitra Sen will always be remembered for her remarkable performances in Devdas, Aandhi, Mamta and immense contribution to Bengali Cinema. Madhuri Dixit said "Indian Cinema will miss you, Suchitra Sen".

Bollywood actor Manoj Bajpayee said "Suchitra Sen: there is so much learn from your life and your work! you will be missed".

NEWS bytes

DM3 release date announced

Universal Studios has announced that "Despicable Me 3" will be released in June 2017. The film will follow "Despicable Me 2", which has taken an estimated \$935 million at the box office since being released last year. It was also recently announced that a spin-off film of the animated series, called "Minions" is currently in production.

It has not yet been confirmed which members of the cast, including Carell and Kristen Wigg, will feature in the new film. Russell Brand, Steve Coogan and Ken Jeong -- who plays Mr. Chow in the Hangover films -- also voiced characters in "Despicable Me 2".

The film was named in the best animation category at the Golden Globes.

The original "Despicable Me" film was released in 2010.

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!

The word "citar" is derived from the Greek word kithara, an instrument from classical times used in Ancient Greece and later throughout the Roman Empire and in the Arab world; the word "guitar" derives from "qithara" as well. The terms "cithare" or "cithar" are also used more broadly, to describe the entire family of stringed instruments in which the strings do not extend beyond the sounding box, including the hammered dulcimer, psaltery, Appalachian dulcimer, guqin, guzheng, koto, guili, kantele, gayageum, dan tranh, kanun, autoharp, santoor, yangqin, piano, harpsichord, santur, swarmandal, and others.

"Jibondhuli" to open Shiliguri Int'l Film Fest

Tanvir Mokammel's latest feature film "Jibondhuli", based on the Liberation War, will be opening the 14th Shiliguri International Film Festival on February 1. Tanvir Mokammel has also been invited to the festival, says a press release.

Meanwhile, the film will also compete in the 6th Jaipur International Film Festival, where it will be screened on February 4.

Elsewhere, a special screening of "Jibondhuli" will be held at the Eisenstein Cine Club Kolkata on January 27, where a number of noted personalities from Kolkata's cultural arena are expected to attend.

Highlighting riverine life of Bangladesh and UK

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-day art exhibition titled "Rivers of the World" was inaugurated at Rabindra Sarobar, Dhanmondi in the city on January 16.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) in Bangladesh has organised the exhibition that features theme-based artwork by students from 10 Bangladesh and British schools.

Artists Syed Rashed Imam Tanmoy and Tamanna Tasmeem lent their guidance to the students. Six educational institutions of Sylhet district are participating in the exhibition. The young artists' focus is on the beautiful Surma river. The Thames in all its splendour is the highlight of works by students from London.

Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed was present as the chief guest. The guests at the event were well-known cartoonist Ahsan Habib, noted writer Anisul Hoque and chief executive officer of HSBC Bangladesh Andrew Tilke.

As the guest of honour Robert W Gibson, British High Commissioner in Bangladesh, attended the event chaired by Robin Davis, director of Partnership and Programmes project of the British Council.

At the opening ceremony, local musicians gave performances. Popular folk songs of Hasan Raja and Shah Abdul Karim, were rendered by singers such as Ashik Dewan, Moyna Sarkar and Rubel Dewan.

The exhibition ends today at Rabindra Sarobar and the Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi in the city.

Guests at the inauguration.

Cutting across sectarian barriers

Pagol Chand Mela held in Narail

PHOTO: STAR

Chand. The day is observed on the last day of the Bangla month Poush.

Kishore Kumar Biswas, president of the committee said that the fair dates back about 150 years. Over 50, 000 people from different communities came to the fair, defying the bone chilling winds and foggy weather. While children were seen on the Nagor Dola, 100 stalls revealed a variety of colourful goods.

An Indo-Bangla effort to find new Tagore songs Talent

A talent hunt on Tagore songs marking the 89th birth anniversary of legendary singer Kanika Bandyopadhyay was held at Satyajit Ray auditorium, RTC, ICCR of Kolkata, India on January 12, according to a press release. Five contestants from Bangladesh and 10 from India (Assam, West Bengal and Tripura) took part in the final round of the competition titled "Rabindra Sangeet-er Notun Protibhar Shondhan-2013", with the seven top-ranking contestants conferred "Mohor Kanika Shamman 2013" along with cash prizes. Soma Roy from Kolkata won the competition, Jannatul Ferdous got second place while Bhaswati Sengupta from Kolkata and Mouraz Chowdhury from Bangladesh were tied for third place.

Tagore singers and teachers, Nargis Chowdhury and Shila Momen from Bangladesh and Shangha Mitra and Anubha Ghosh of India were the judges for the final round. Deputy High Commissioner for the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Kolkata, India Abida Islam graced the occasion as chief guest, while Rajashree Behera, eastern regional director of ICCR presided over.

Two cultural organisations, Padatik-Bangladesh and Mitali- Indo Bangladesh Cultural Society, in collaboration with Rabindranath Tagore Centre, ICCR, Kolkata and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy have been arranging the competition for the last several years.

A winner receives her award.