

Zainul Quamrul Exhibition

Venue: Nalini Kanta Bhattasali, National Museum

Date: Dec 22-Jan 31

Time: 10am-8pm



Suchitra Sen Film Retrospective

Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan 1

Date: Jan 23-25

Time: 6:30pm



Album Launch

Title: Oshrunodir Teer-e

Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi

Date: Jan 25

Time: 6:30pm



Solo Exhibition

Title: Gravity-Free World

Artist: A. Rahman

Venue: Bengal Gallery

Date: Jan 18-31

Time: 12pm-8pm



Musical Soiree

Organiser: Srijon

Venue: Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum

Date: Jan 25

Time: 6:30pm



# NEWSbytes

## "Shunte Ki Pao" to compete at MIFF

"Shunte Ki Pao!" -- Kamar Simon's documentary from the coastal belts of Bangladesh, is now been invited in the main international competition of upcoming Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF), due between February 3-9. MIFF, arguably the oldest and richest of documentary festivals in Asia, is a prestige biennial event organized by the Film Division of Government of India. This year MIFF, received a whopping 793 entries from 34 countries, out of which only 15 made into the main international competition, including with "Shunte Ki Pao!"

In it's continued journey of accolades, 'Shunte Ki Pao!' was invited in 20 international competitions and has won 7 international competitions, including the 'Grand Prix' for the best feature documentary 35th Cinema du Reel held last year in Paris and 'Jury Award' at Film Southasia 2013, says a press release.

Meanwhile, the film is scheduled for a commercial release on February 21 at Star Cineplex -- a first for a documentary in Bangladesh.

## Theatre Circle at Int'l Theatre Fest, Orissa

**FARHANA MIRZA BARNA, Munshiganj**

Theatre Circle of Munshiganj has taken part in International Theatre Festival at Kotkey, Orissa. The festival was inaugurated on January 20, and will continue till January 31. DP Mohapatra, former Chief Justice of Allahabad inaugurated the festival. Besides Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Thailand and eighty troupes from India are taking part in the festival, organised by Theatre Movement of India.

On the opening day, Theatre Circle of Munshiganj staged "Pahara". Jahangir Alam Dhali directed the play. Suma Das, Naim Sarkar, Nazmul Hasan, Saiful Islam Saif, Mir Nasiruddin Ujjal and others performed at the play. Anisur Rahman Shiplu, international affairs secretary of People's Theatre Association led the troupe.

IT'S TRUE!



In 1976, at Atelier Crommelynck, David Hockney -- considered one of the most influential British artists of the 20th century -- created a portfolio of 20 etchings, "The Blue Guitar: Etchings By David Hockney Who Was Inspired By Wallace Stevens Who Was Inspired By Pablo Picasso". The etchings refer to themes in a poem by Wallace Stevens, "The Man With The Blue Guitar", published by Petersburg Press in October 1977. That year, Petersburg also published a book, in which the images were accompanied by the poem's text.



**SAURAV DEY**

Theatre troupe Drishyapat's 3-day theatre fest titled "Drishyapat Natyotsob" began on Thursday, with Prachyanat's play "Gondar" -- a Bangladeshi makeover of Romanian-French playwright Eugene Ionesco's Rhinoceros.

As a troupe, Prachyanat's brings innovation through experimentation and "Gondar" is no exception. The play was written as a response to the rise of Fascism and Nazism during the era of World War II and it uncovers the mask of strictly-chained Totalitarian society. It only depicts the horrors of Nazism, but also shows the mentality of people who easily succumbed to Nazism and hastened its rise. The play has similarities to the societal states of our country as well. The epidemic of rhinoceros in the play is a metaphor of the present society where human beings conform to particular patterns without using their rational faculty.

The play belongs to the school of drama defined as Theatre of the Absurd and has the characteristic of absurd drama -- abruptness, illogicality, lack of chronological order, lack of climax and apparent-stupidity. It sets off in a small French town, where we see two friends -- the imaginative, drunkard, whimsical, unsuccessful Berenger and the intellectual, prideful, confident and rich Jean -- talking about an unspecified matter. Soon they move to another conversation and Jean starts censuring Berenger for his tardiness and drunken states. Meanwhile a rhinoceros enters and rampages the square, beginning the action of the play. Gradually all the characters start turning into rhinoceros save for Berenger, who struggles hard not to turn into an animal. When Daisy, the love interest of Berenger, becomes a rhinoceros, he finds himself completely alone and starts questioning his existence as a human. However, he renews his vows to stand against the mass animalisation, he turns into a devilish existence in the realm of rhinoceros.

The play apparently lacks logic, but when the so-called logical minds throw their logic out the window and turn into animal, the illogical Berenger sticks to humanity. He is the representative of those people who struggle hard to exist despite many obstacles.

Jahurul Haq translated the play, while Kazi Towfiul Islam Emon directed it and designed the costumes. Monirul Islam Ruebel played the role of Berenger, while Mohammad Abid Hossain appeared as Jean. The stage design was innovative and the background score was in sync. There is only a few works on absurdist theatre in Bangladeshi theatre industry, and "Gondar" is one of them.

The ongoing festival wraps ups this evening with the 100th staging of Drishyapat's play "Socrates-er Jobanbondi" today.

## Highlighting animals and human shapes

### A Rahman's solo exhibition at Bengal Gallery

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Under the title "Gravity-Free World", Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts has organised a solo art exhibition featuring the works of Rome-based Bangladeshi expatriate artist A Rahman. The gallery has arranged the two-week long show to display the artist's works of the last ten years.

Eminent artist Monirul Islam inaugurated the show recently as chief guest while art critic Moinuddin Khaled was present as special guest at the inauguration. Mustafa Zaman is the curator of the show.

Rahman's works plunge deep into varied elements of nature. His paintings can be categorised according to the use of varied alien forms as well as sketchy compositions. His modes of expressions are abstract and semi-abstract.

The exhibition features over 50 paintings and sketches in different mediums including mixed media, digital print (intaglio) and pencil sketches that represent the strength



of natural world and the reality of human existence. As an experimental artist, Rahman does not confine himself to any particular medium and tries his hand in working with an array of mediums in his artistic endeavour. The painter has dealt with the existence of birds, animals, elements of nature and human forms in his artworks. His artworks' process is usually lengthy and involves a gradual refinement of everything that creates sometimes a splendid atmosphere. The closeness of tones in his works are -- green, blue, crimson, ash, black and others.

Rahman was born in Feni in 1970. He obtained his MFA from the Institute of Fine Arts (now the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka) in 1996. He also did a course in printmaking at Rome Academy in Italy. He obtained diploma in fashion design from Burgo Fashion Institute in Rome.

The artist has 10 solo exhibitions to his credit at home and abroad. He also participated in a number of group exhibitions in Japan, Italy and France.

The exhibition will continue till January 31.

## Music unhindered

### Porobashi performs at EMK Centre

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Porobashi may not be the most familiar of band names even to the serious music listeners of Dhaka, but one look at the line-up will draw their attention: featuring Buno (from Bangla) on guitars, Bart (from Ajob), Nazrul on Dhol and Pantha Kanai on drums, along with Victor (or guitars) and Sumel (on vocals) -- the two original members of what used to be known as "Shunno" in the early 2000s -- Porobashi packs quite the punch.

The band performed on Wednesday (January 21) at the EMK Centre in Dhanmondi, to a small but engaging crowd.

Sumel sang mostly his own songs, vividly portraying a wide range of emotions in his booming, folksy voice. Opening with "Ami Bhabhi Jare, Paina Go Tare", he went on to sing beautiful melodies in "Baul Ami", "Dur Porobashe", "Oporadhi Hoileo Ami Tor", "Akash Bhora Hajar Tara", "Shorisha Phool", "Gorib", "Phaguner Matal Hawa" and "Taito Pagol", along with SD Burman's "Mon Dilo Na Bodhu" and "Shono Go Dokhino Hawa", a Gopal Goshai song "Ami Jodi Duiba Mori" that Sumel had sung in the film "Dub Shatar", and a folk song from North Bengal "Ekkhan Shuta Katabo". Ranging from melancholy to yearning to romance to upbeat and flirty and unencumbered, they took the audience on an emotional ride. The lyrical depth of Porobashi's music struck a few chords with the audience, along with the musicians' smooth playing. Buno, in particular, was in his zone, playing out bluesy improvised solos and using a range of effect pedals and finger slid-



**Sumel and the band in the zone.**

**PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON**

## Back for the Attack

### Rock Strata returns with new album after 22 years

**A CORRESPONDENT**

When they did metal music back in the 90's, the sound of Rock Strata was unfamiliar to the people of Bangladesh. Metal was an alien music for the people here. However, after listening to songs like "Artonad", "Nuclear Shadhinota" and "Rokte Bheja Mati", music aficionados knew that there was a new element in the horizon. Bangladesh had its first metal band. Even though the album was recorded in haste and the band disbanded soon after for various reasons, people of Bangladesh kept playing the same songs in their stereos, and their cassette players, followed by MP3s and even audio on Youtube. Bands inspired by Rock Strata later did thrash metal, power metal and other evolved forms of metal, taking the underground music scene forward by miles.

However, the pioneers of Bangladesh's heavy metal music had been greatly missed in these two decades. But fans have to miss them no more. The fabled underground band is back, after a staggering 22-year gap, with a brand new album titled "Notun Shad'er Khojey." To add even more surprise, the making of the album has been done by the same members who had rocked the stages of Engineer's Institute, the plat-forms of metal music in Dhaka and Chittagong in the 90's.

Although the members of the band were dispersed in various parts of the world, they came together for a common cause- to give one last piece of Rock Strata; to recreate history. While there were already talks going on from 2011 onwards on the recording of the new album, the full-fledged album came together this year. Finally, after a heartwarming reunion, the album was recorded in the USA, and is set for launch on February 7, organised by Live Square and under the label of G-Series.

As news of a new album of Rock Strata in the horizon went 'viral' over the internet, fans' expectations have continued to skyrocket. Meanwhile, insider sources say the album will be vividly reminiscent of what the band made a name for itself with two decades ago; a touch of classic heavy metal, in a great combination of melody, energy and aggression.

The lineup of the band is what it was for the last album: Mushfiq Ahmed on Vocals, Imran Hussain and Mainul Islam guitars, Arshad Amin on bass and Mahbubur Rashid on drums. There will also be guest appearances by noted guitarist Kamal (Warfaze, Aurthohin).



## Gal Gadot signs three-film deal as Wonder Woman

Those waiting to hear more information about a Wonder Woman solo movie outside of her appearance in Batman vs Superman can rest easy. Gal Gadot has confirmed that she has signed a three-picture deal as the Amazonian superheroine.

As reported by Batman News, Gal Gadot revealed the agreement in an appearance on Israeli show "Good Evening With Gail Pines", as well as her fee for appearing in the Man Of Steel sequel: \$300,000.

The three-picture deal is now commonplace for franchise casting, especially considering that Warner has its eye on a superhero team-up Justice League movie at some point down the line.

It's also probably safe to assume for now that those three films will be "Batman vs Superman", a Wonder Woman solo movie and the Justice League film.

In related Justice League news, Stephen Amell, star of TV's "Arrow", has talked about his possible involvement in the larger DC movie universe.

He said "I have had discussions, but I think the gestation process for this project is a lot slower than most people think. I mean, they haven't even shot the next one." Let's not forget that that gestation process is now even slower thanks to the delayed release of "Batman vs Superman", which was pushed back to a 2016 release recently.



Source: **Totalfilm**