

WHAT'S ON

Omor Ekushey Book Fair
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Surawardy Udyan and
Bangla Academy
Date: Feb 1-28
Time: 3pm-9pm



Dhaka Art Summit
Venue: Shilpkala Academy,
Segunbagicha
Date: Feb 7-9
Time: 10am-8pm



Theatre
Play: Tringsha Shatabdee
Troupe: Swapnadal
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall,
Shilpkala Academy
Date: Feb 10
Time: 6:30pm

Birthday Celebration of
Khaled Khan
Venue: Bokultala, Faculty of Fine
Arts, DU
Date: Feb 9
Time: 7am

Duet Art Exhibition
Title: Dui Bangal
Artists: Hashem Khan and
Mohammad Iqbal
Venue: Gallery Twenty One,
Dharmamandi
Date: Feb 6-Mar 1



NEWS bytes

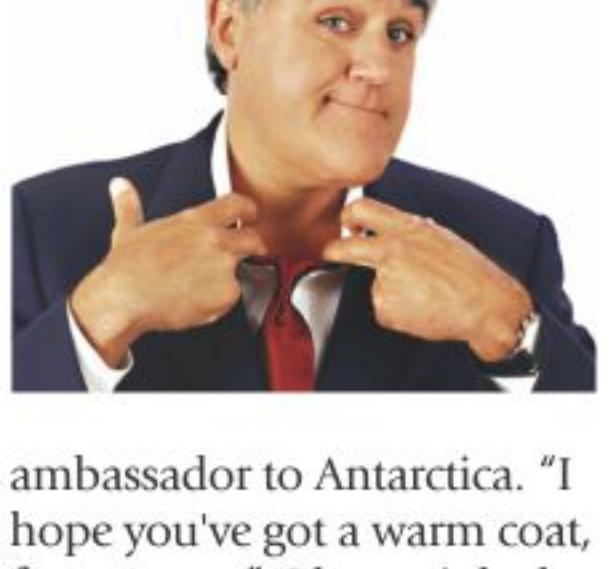
Jay Leno bids adieu to Tonight Show

Long-time US television host Jay Leno has taped his final episode of "The Tonight Show", with help from a few celebrity guests.

Leno, 63, appeared emotional as he thanked viewers for their loyalty after his 22 years as host. He was joined by high-profile guests including Billy Crystal, Oprah Winfrey and Garth Brooks. Fellow comedian and late-night host Jimmy Fallon, 39, takes over the programme on February 17 in New York.

Leno was briefly replaced on the show by comedian Conan O'Brien in 2009, but returned to the show in 2010.

US President Barack Obama was one of many to send in taped goodbyes, offering to make Leno an



TAKIR HOSSAIN

A number of solo projects by internationally-acclaimed artists like Rana Begum, Shazia Sikander, Jitish Kallat and Rashid Rana have definitely enriched the current Dhaka Art Summit, which closes today at the capital's Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy. Many of the artists, mainly recognised for their unique exploration of creativity and stimulating techniques, are addressing various social, cultural, environmental and personal issues like harassment, discrimination of women and children trafficking, communalism and social intolerance. They are considered to be more socially-conscious artists as their focal point were varied social dilemmas and their voices were very similar to the act of anti-establishment. The projects articulate their experiences, understanding and deep observations on the anomalies in our society. Their works depict demonstration, the common and unfortunate features of life. They deal with a variety of subjects like labour unrest, dilemma of immigrant workers, misplaced idealism and religious bigotry.

UK-based Bangladeshi artist Rana Begum displays an installation at the second floor of the Shilpkala Academy. The solo project draws on her experience of weaving baskets as a child and of reading the Quran in a small mosque in her native village back in Bangladesh. At the installation, she has used some elements of our country. She has used bamboo-made baskets as her medium of expression. Her rich project -- to some extent -- is similar to domes of a mosque. In her childhood, she would visit mosques in the morning when the Quran was recited. In her project, the artist aimed to recreate the tranquility which she was found in the mosque.

Besides the solo project, the dynamic artist's metal-based sculpture is also on display at the Paris-based curator and art historian Deepak Ananth's curatorial show. At the show, Rana's work is purely crystalline, simple and consists of geometric forms. Her mode of expression is minimal in its formal language and her works are aesthetically sound. Refined vibrant colours are one of the main traits of her installations. Her use of colours gives us an illusionary and imposing view.

Deepak's project has also been enriched by the varied mediums of works and themes of Bangladeshi artist Ronni Ahmed and photographers Shumon Ahmed, Omar Adnan Chowdhury and Gazi Nafis Ahmed.

At the show, a number of acrylic-based works by Ronni Ahmed are on display. Through his paintings, the experimental artist focuses on myths, and merges the past and the future of man and nature. He applies varied symbols, motifs and fantastic elements, using human forms, animals and varied surrealistic imageries. His vibrant works hold a kind of illusory atmosphere, which seems alien but this depiction of an apparently-unknown civilisation or community expresses the same kind of message one

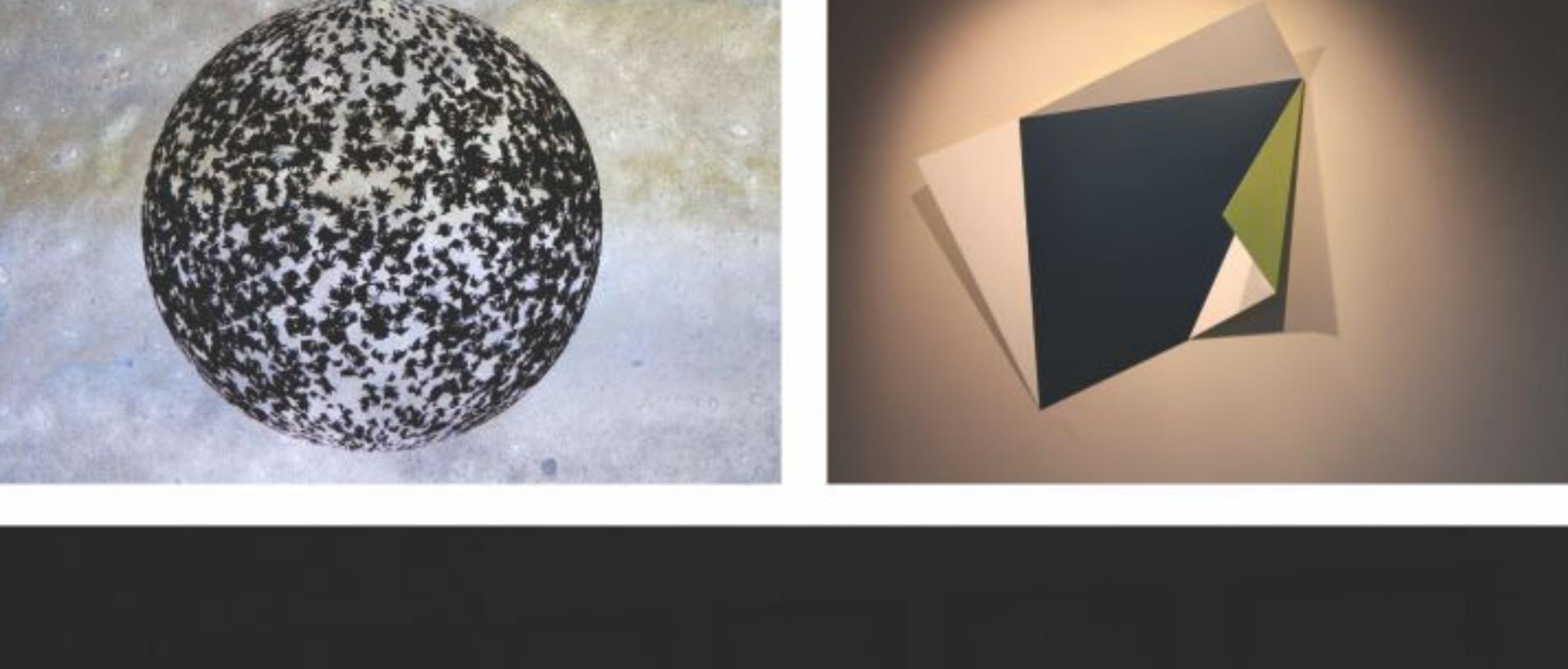
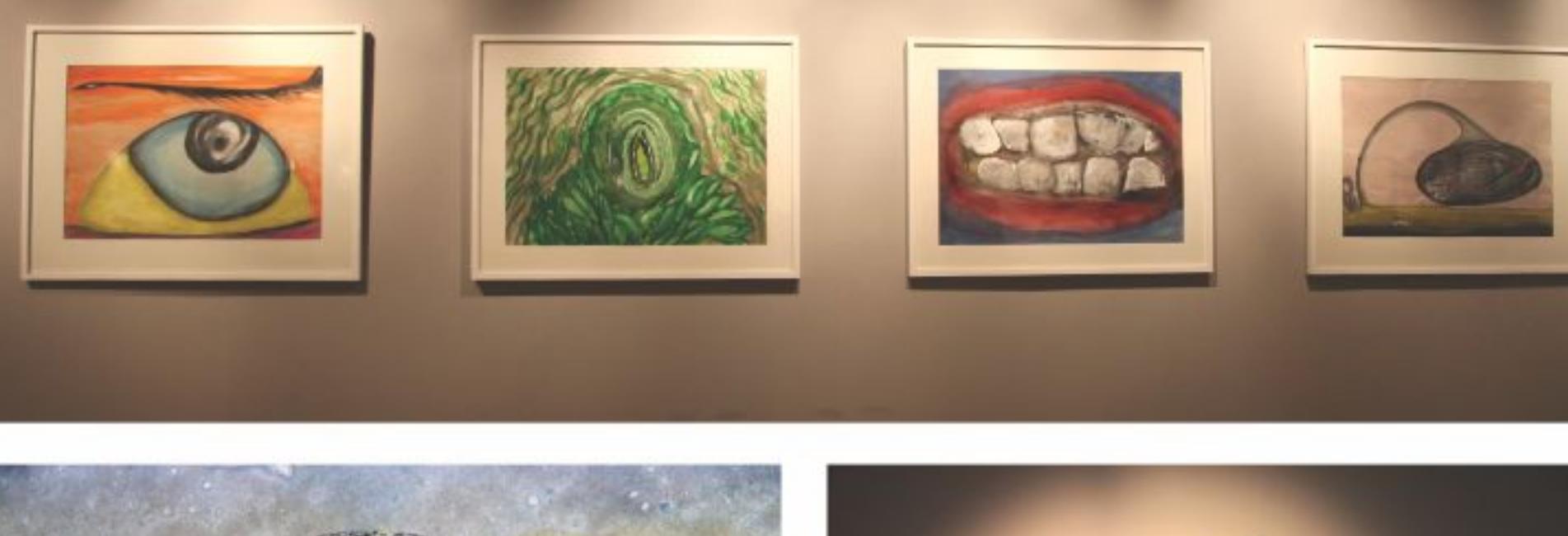


PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

From top: Installation by Rana Begum, paintings by Ronni Ahmed, animation by Shahzia Sikander, a sculpture by Rana Begum and animated video by Jitish Kallat.

gets when confronted with strange reality. The artist is seemingly fascinated with myth and its many aspects and his message has been integrated in his tinted paintings.

Jitish Kallat is one of the most prominent figures of Contemporary Indian Art. Working across a variety of media including painting, sculpture, photography and installation, his work reflects a deep involvement with the city of his birth (Mumbai) and derives much of its visual language from his immediate urban environment. At the summit, Kallat's solo project denotes moon in several forms. The project screens in a dark room at the second floor in Shilpkala Academy and art enthusiasts get an illusionary ambience. His seven-channel animated video has focused on the idea of time and life-cycles. Moon cycles are non-stop and a continual process and the animated video presents the infinite cycles that comprise the universe through the waxing and fading roti (bread) moons. In the project, once the moon comes to a very thin form and afterwards it becomes a larger rounded shape. Here forms also change in varied dimensions, and breads come here as a symbolic presentation of life cycles.

Internationally recognised, Pakistani-born American artist Shahzia Sikander is best known for her experimentation with the formal constructs of Indo-Persian miniature painting in a variety of formats and mediums, including video, animation, mural and collaboration with other artists. At the summit, her 3-channel animation work, focusing on the Strait of Hormuz and the area's historical power tensions; the animation Parallax is inspired by the idea of conflict and control. Numerous small, insect-like drawn elements congregate and disperse to create dissonance and disruption. Abstract, representational and textual forms coexist and push for domination. Spheres made of hair spin and sing, Christmas trees made of valves and spools spout, while undulating colour fields create pitch and fervour and large swaths of static noise erupt into flocks. Human voices recite and narrate, creating anxiety and rhythm while oscillating between audible texts and the environmental sounds. Visual vocabulary is culled from drawings and paintings to construct the animation, giving the motifs and symbols a shifting identity as they come together to re-create meaning within the digital space.



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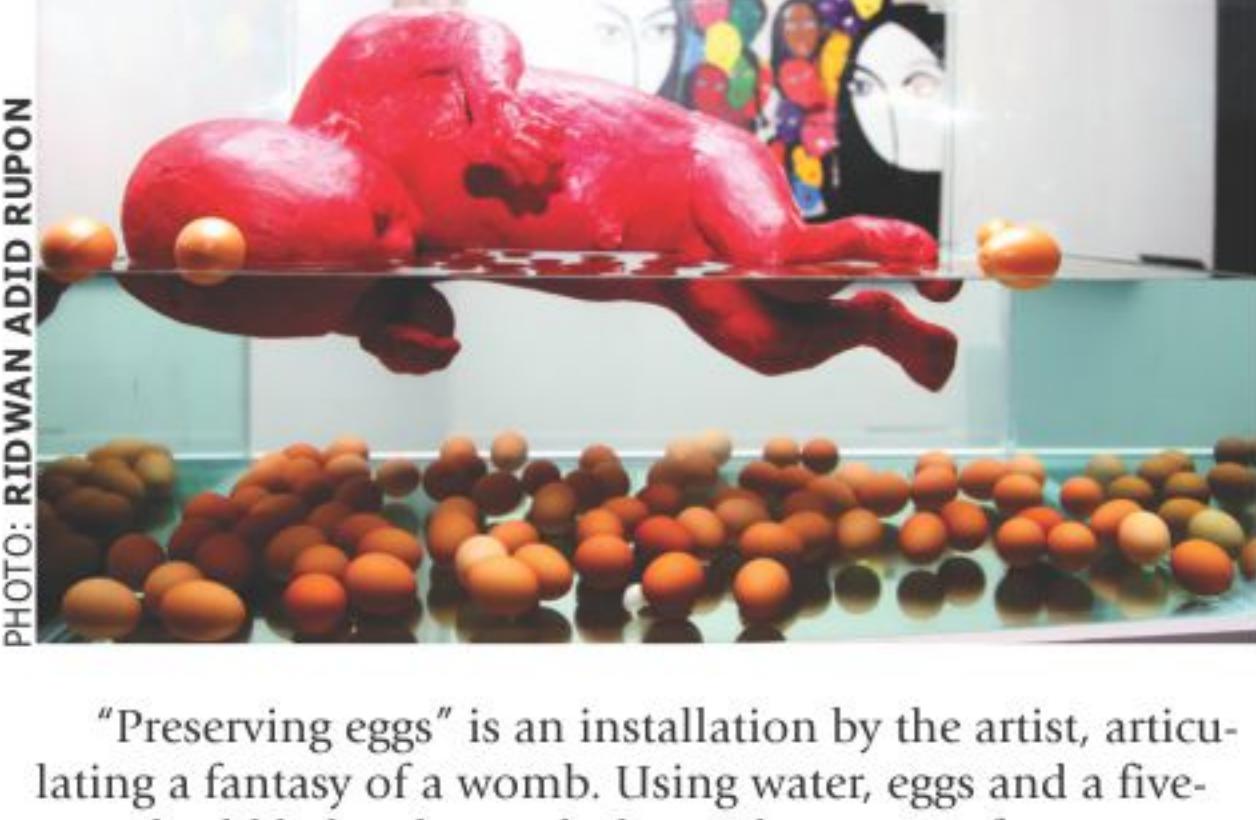
Preema's creative expressions at Dhaka Art Summit

NAWSABA AZIZ

Nazia Andaleeb Preema's endeavour to attain versatility in her work is apparent in her passion for new media, techniques and experimentation. Her creations span over genres, ranging from traditional to digital, in her pursuit to constantly test her limits. Some of her pieces, including paintings, an experimental installation and a video projection on 'teletalk with her' are on at the second edition of Dhaka Art Summit, which closes today.

Preema's artworks are set to be showcased by the renowned Lahore Art Gallery of Pakistan and Gallery Cosmos of Dhaka at the Art Summit. Her curator, artist and art critic Quddus Mirza said: "In the past, Andaleeb's work has been recognised for its innovative approach, distinct technique and lyrical overtones. Presently her canvases and video installation indicate pleasure and celebration of freedom, beauty and the act of mark-making; all that is essential to create a work of art as an idea forever."

The renowned curator noted her penchant for representing women and the issues they face in our society and stated, "The artist appears as a social activist through her work. 'Staring Women' is one of her major series on women that depicts the strength of a Bangladeshi Muslim woman. Her works in visual media always focus on female behaviour and patterns."



"Preserving eggs" is an installation by the artist, articulating a fantasy of a womb. Using water, eggs and a five-month-old baby, the work shows the agony of a woman and her emotional interpretation to become a mother. Preema's artworks are part of the Art Summit which will showcase five exhibitions curated by local and international curators, 14 solo art projects, a city-wide public art project, screenings of experimental films, performances, and presentations by 33 local and international galleries. Over 250 artists from South Asian countries are participating in the second edition of the summit.

Preema believes time is ripe for local artists to realise that we need to create our own language in art. When asked, "You have so many different styles of work, which one is yours?" the artist firmly answered, "When it comes to art I am not a conformist, rather just an artist."

Fahim Hossain's latest album launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent Tagore singer Fahim Hossain's latest solo album "Dokhin Duar", produced by Bengal Foundation, was formally launched at Bengal Shilpalaya on February 6.

The album features 10 songs from Prokruti Parjaye, including "Poob Hawatey Deye Dola," "Emono Din-e Tarey Bola Jaye," "E Ki Gabhir Bani Elo," "Sheuli Phota Phurolo," "Hemonti Kon Boshonter-i Bani," "Shei Bhalo Shei Bhalo," "Aji Dokhin Duru Khola" and "Etodin Jey Boshey Chhilem". Though the album covers songs on six seasons, the celebration of spring gets prominence as the songs recorded for the album suggest.

Noted cultural personality and director general of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation, Pijush Bandyopadhyay unveiled the album as chief guest at the programme. Director General of Bengal Foundation Luva Nahid Choudhury and the featured artiste were present at the event.

Fahim Hossain later performed several Tagore songs on the occasion.



Call for films for Rainbow Film Festival

The annual Rainbow Film Festival in London, organised by the non-profit Rainbow Film Society aims to promote education of the arts, particularly in film and allied visual techniques. The 15th edition of the festival, slated for May 25-June 1, is opening its call for films from March 1-15. The competition will be in five categories: Best Film, Best Director, Best Audience award, Best Shorts and Best Documentary, says a press release.

While a number of films screened are particularly appropriate for families to enjoy, the festival also aims to attract all audiences interested in discovering foreign films; all the films at the festival have English subtitles.

The Society's main aim is to explore the history and the culture of other countries and their traditions and through a better understanding of cultural diversity, promote racial harmony and community cohesion.

The festival will be held at Genesis Cinema, Rich Mix Centre and in Tarling Centre, and plans are afoot to screen about 25 films including feature, short and documentaries. Film submission form, along with further information on the festival, are available at their website, rainbowfilmsociety.com



Artists perform at the event.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Folk Music Department of Chhayanaut organised a musical event at the Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhaban auditorium on February 7. The event featured solo and choral rendition of songs composed by the Bangladeshi mystic bard Rokib Shah, Pagla Kanai, Bhoba Pagla, Duddu Shah and Fakir Shitalong Shah.

The event set off with a choral rendition of a Rokib Shah composition "Manush Tarey Cheno Rey" by the artistes of the department. Vice President of the organisation Dr. Sarwar Ali spoke at the event.

Among the soloists, Chandana Majumdar and Sardar Md. Rahmatulla performed Pagla Kanai songs "Ki Mojor Ghor Banaichhe" and "Ki Phul Phutilo Rey" while Nirmal Chandra Majumdar, Biman