

WHAT'S ON
Amor Ekushey Book Fair
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan and
Bangla Academy
Date: Feb 1-28
Time: 3pm-9pm

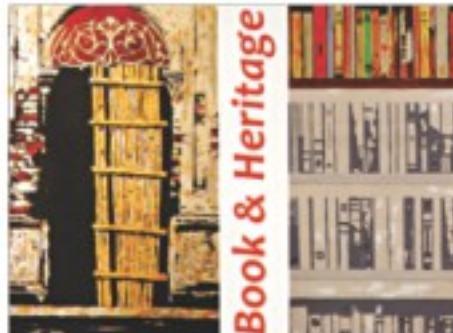


Film Festival
Venue: National Art Gallery Auditorium, Shilpkala Academy Date: Feb 12-20 Time: 3pm-7pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Sanjib Datta
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H-42, R-16, Dhanmondi Date: Feb 11-20 Time: 12pm-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Proshanta Karmakar Buddha
Venue: Shilpangan, H-7, R-13, New Dhanmondi (Sohabnagh) Date: Feb 14-23 Time: 12pm-7pm



Duet Art Exhibition
Title: Dui Bangla
Artists: Hashem Khan and Mohammad Iqbal
Venue: Gallery Twenty One, Dhanmondi Date: Feb 6-Mar 1 Time: 12pm-8pm



NEWS bytes

MJ fans win one euro for emotional damage

Five Michael Jackson fans have been awarded one euro each by a French court for the "emotional damage" they suffered after the pop star's death. The case saw 34 fans sue Jackson's doctor Conrad Murray, who was jailed in 2011 for the involuntary manslaughter of the singer, and is out now after serving his sentence.

The court in Orleans ruled five fans had proven emotional suffering.

The five claimants - two from France, two from Switzerland and one from Belgium - were all members of the French-based Michael Jackson



Community fan club. Their lawyer said they had proven their suffering "with the help of witness statements and medical certificates."

"As far as I know, this is the first time in the world that the notion of emotional damage in connection with a pop star has been recognised," Emmanuel Ludot told the AFP news agency.

The damages were symbolic, he added, and the claimants would not be seeking to claim the one euro each from Conrad Murray.

Source: BBC

A divine tale of Krishna and Radha Shadhma premieres "Prematritam"



PHOTO: DARSHAN CHAKRA

LAMIA SAIYARA MELA

Whether radiating as a tale from childhood or to pious actualities of belief, Krishna and Radha can be two very fundamental characters concerning the symbolic divinity we know of. Krishna -- being the masculine aspect of God, and Radha -- his ultimate devotee being the feminine, depicts each other to be on the head of the heap mythology has gathered over ages.

Sporting the narrative of Astha Prahar Sankirtan, Shadhma -- in association with 'Dhrumel', based in Kamalganj -- premiered a virtuous interpretation with dance drama "Prematritam" on February 16, at the Music and Dance Department auditorium of the Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy.

The production, basing on the Bangla Vaisnava Padavalis from medieval Bangladesh, has been directed, choreographed and conceptualised by Mou Das, portraying sublimely the love-play, separation, and union between the flute-playing cowherd Krishna and the

cowherdess Radha. The staging of an hour had in store the majestic portrayal of the tale of Sri-Radha, who is understood to be the individual soul that feels abandoned by God, symbolised by Krishna, who, in turn, loves all souls and is therefore accused of infidelity by Radha. But overcoming her hurt, Radha finally rejoins her lover in a passionate union.

The performance began with performers of Dhrumel sitting faced towards the audience with musical instruments in hand, harmoniously creating entering an ambience using pena, mridanga and mandira, and then lyrical vocal joining in. After a musical introduction, the dancers dressed in Manipuri ethnic costumes started off poising with Chamars in gesture of preaching to God while a reciting man sat, chanting the prayers as the dancers moved. The reciter flipped pages of a book and the performance trailed ahead with a background of magnificent décor -- sporting an artistic pictorial Krishna holding a flute at the

back of the stage. The performance carried off with the effeminate 'Mayabi', leading to 'Chalan' (movements) of animals and birds, a scene of 'Khela' with all the dancers joyously dancing and at the same time playing and chasing each other, and also a part where three mridanga players play their instruments and dance their hearts out.

Mou Das -- a Manipuri dancer from Kolkata but residing in Bangladesh now -- herself played Radha's role was exemplary in her stances. Krishna's role was played by Amit Chowdhury, husband to Mou Das and a renowned dancer himself.

The production was supported by India Bangladesh Foundation and Dhrumel, who with Shadhma has been undergoing a prolonged project to promote and preserve the Manipuri culture. "Prematritam" showcased songs of the Bangla Vaishnava Padabali, sung during rituals and festivals.

The writer is a budding dancer.

A collection of conversations

Aminur Rahman's book "Shangbadikota Theke Celluloid -- Shomoyer Shera Kothopokothon" launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Shangbadikota Theke Celluloid -- Shomoyer Shera Kothopokothon" -- the book of poet Aminur Rahman launched on February 16 at Shamsur Rahman Seminar Hall of Bangla Academy in the city.

The book, published by Adorn Publication, was unveiled by information minister Hasanul Haq Inu as chief guest. Eminent artist Rafiqun Nabi presided over the event, while theatre personality Nasir Uddin Yousuff, Habibul Alam Bipratik and Dr. Dorothea Muller-Ott, writer-translator from Austria were also present as the special guests at the event. Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of Bangla Academy and Syed Zakir



Aminur Rahman speaks at the programme. Rafiqun Nabi and Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu also seen.

Hossain, publisher and chief executive officer of Adorn Publication were also present at the programme.

The book is basically based on interviews. It contains famous poets, writers, film director, artist and personalities'

Khan Ataur Rahman, politician Mianur Rahman Chowdhury, economist Lutfur Rahman Sarker, poets Shamsur Rahman, Trade Huge, Nissim Ezekiel, Al Mahmud and recently-deceased poet Fazal Shahabuddin.

A number of renowned personalities of the field of journalism are also included in the publication. They are Obaidul Huq, Ahmed Humayun, Sanaullah Nuri, Shahidul Haq, Golam Rasul Mallik, Enamul Haq, Santosh Gupta, AKM Mohiuddin, Shahadat Chowdhury, KM Munim, Reazuddin Ahmed and Abed Khan.

Poet Aminur Rahman is one of the important poets of the 80s. He is also a translator, art critic and writer. He has pub-

lished six collections of poems in Bangla. His work has been translated in more than twenty five languages and has poetry books in English, Spanish, German, Japanese, Mongolian and Arabic. He has two prose books in his credit. As an accomplished translator he has translated eight books of poetry and edited few poetry magazines and books. As an invited author, Aminur read his work at various international arts and literary festivals, universities and cultural venues. He has represented Bangladesh in the poetry festival in Colombia, Malaysia, Mongolia, India, Iraq, Japan, Sri Lanka, Spain, Nicaragua etc. He was Awarded Chingish Khaan Gold Medal in Mongolia and CLA honour in Malaysia.



The mystery of nature Newton's solo exhibition to be held in Japan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saga Art Museum, Japan is going to organise a solo painting exhibition titled "Sound of Nature", featuring the works of painter Zahir Hossain Newton next month. This is his 4th solo exhibition, featuring some 36 paintings.

Newton is one of the earliest painters in Dhaka art scene. He did his masters in the Crafts Department, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka. Earlier, his works mostly featured different types of birds and flowers. He had also been busy exploring the beauty of aquatic life.

Currently, the painter seems more aware of space, and his compositions are neat. His works zoom in on nature and its deepest beauty. His work is considered to be abstract expressionism. The backdrop of his paintings gives a meditative look to his works. He has used acrylic, mixed media on paper and canvas. His works are expressive due to the effective use of space in his paintings.

Newton has taken his colours from nature and that is why it is the most noteworthy aspect in his works. He likes to experiment with colour in all its varied facets -- applying it directly, spattering thin layers on the canvas. His paintings construct a phrase on the essence of a colour and what they really mean.

Newton's canvases are lavish in abstract images of colours and forms. But this abstraction does not in any way hinder the viewers' perception of the artist's feeling and sensation. The poetic sound of nature and its divine stream produce a surge of sensitivity, enabling him to hear and interpret the sounds of nature, its colours, rhythm and poetry.

Newton's works with bright colours like azure, yellow, mauve and crimson. It is clear that his observation on the colours proffered by nature is an exciting feature in his works where they are present in all kinds of mind-puzzling compositions.

Gravity and 12 Years share Bafta glory



PHOTO COURTESY: BAFTA

(Clockwise) Alfonso Cuaron, Cate Blanchett and Barkhad Abdi receive their awards.

"Gravity" dominated the Bafta film awards scooping six prizes, while "12 Years a Slave" won the coveted best film honour in a ceremony in as also named best British film and picked up other awards for visual effects, cinematography, best sound and original music, while Alfonso Cuaron won best director at the ceremony in Royal Opera House, London.

British star Chiwetel Ejiofor collected the best actor Bafta for his role as Solomon Northup in "12 Years a Slave", While Cate Blanchett picked up best actress for "Blue Jasmine".

In the supporting acting categories, "Captain Phillips" star Barkhad Abdi won as did Jennifer Lawrence for "American Hustle". Its director David O Russell accepted the award on Lawrence's behalf as she remained absent, and was back on stage minutes later to pick up the award for best original screenplay for the 1970s crime drama.

Ejiofor, who seven years ago was nominated for the Bafta rising star award, accepted his award from US actress Uma Thurman. He said he was "so deeply honoured and privileged to receive it", thanking director Steve McQueen for his "artistry and passion".

"The Great Gatsby" picked up two awards for production design and cos-

tume design. "Room 8" was named best short film; the short animation award was won by "Sleeping With the Fishes".

The awards were hosted for a ninth time by actor Stephen Fry.

Best animation went to "Frozen",

which came out ahead of "Monsters University" and "Despicable Me 2". US director Ron Howard, whose film "Rush" - about the rivalry between F1 drivers James Hunt and Niki Lauda - won the award for best editing, joked on the

red carpet he felt like "a grateful foreign exchange student."

Steve Coogan and Jeff Pope won for their adapted screenplay for the film "Philomena", based on the true story of an Irish woman trying to find the son she was forced to give up for adoption.

Cate Blanchett paid tribute on stage to the late actor Philip Seymour Hoffman, who died earlier this month in New York, calling him "a continual profound touchstone".

The Baftas can be an indicator of which films go on to win Academy Awards two weeks later. Last year "Argo" won best film, Daniel Day-Lewis won best actor, and Christoph Waltz and Anne Hathaway took the best supporting acting prizes. They all went on to win Oscars.

Prince William, the academy's president, presented Dame Helen Mirren with the British Academy fellowship, its highest accolade. Previous winners have included Charlie Chaplin, Alfred Hitchcock, Steven Spielberg and Stanley Kubrick.

The winner of the public vote for this year's Rising Star award was also announced with 21-year-old British actor Will Poulter from "We're the Millers" accepting the award.

Source: BBC