

WHAT'S ON


Art Exhibit
Title: Poradrishti
Featured Artist: SM Sultan
Venue: Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct
Date: May 23-July 13
Time: 12pm-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Of Man and Earth II by Syed Jahangir
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60, Gulshan Avenue, Rd-131, Circle-1
Date: May 31-June 21
Time: 12pm-8pm daily



Group Art Exhibition
Organiser: Bangladesh National Museum (BNM)
Venue: Nalimikanta Bhattacharya Hall, BNM
Date: May 18-June 17
Time: 10:30am-5:30pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Ultramarine
Artist: Sultan Ishtiaque
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Date: May 20-June 2
Time: 3pm-8pm



Painting Exhibition
Artist: Najib Tareque
Venue: The Studio, Japan Garden City, Building 13
Date: May 29-June 1
Time: 9:30am-11:30pm



NEWS bytes

"Breaking Bad" may not be over

"Breaking Bad" star Bryan Cranston teased fans by suggesting that character Walter White may not be dead. In an interview with CNN, when the actor was asked whether he had seen the last of White, he replied: "Hey, you never saw bags zip up or anything."

Presenter Ashley Banfield asked, "Is he dead?", to which Cranston replied, "I don't know." In response to whether the character would appear anywhere else again, he added: "Never say never." Cranston's co-star Aaron Paul revealed a few weeks ago that he'd found it difficult to come to terms with no longer playing his character Jesse Pinkman. "Breaking Bad" launched in 2008 and went on to win several awards, including 10 Emmys.

Source: BBC



IT'S TRUE!

Canadian actor Keanu Reeves gave \$50 million US Dollars of his \$70 million earnings of "The Matrix" sequels, "The Matrix Reloaded" and "The Matrix Revolutions" to the special effects and makeup staff. He is quoted as saying, "Money is the last thing I think about. I could live on what I have already made for the next few centuries."



Interplay of Gamak and Meend Barendra Dhrupad Shaili at Bengal Shilpalaya



Dr. Asit Roy and Md. Alamgir Parvez perform a jugalbandi.

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Upholding legacy of classical music developed across Bangladesh, Bengal Foundation organised a classical music soiree at Dhanmondi's Bengal Shilpalaya on May 30. The soiree, titled "Barendra Dhrupad Shaili", featured khayal and dhrupad performances by several teachers and students of the Department of Music of Rajshahi University (RU).

DG, Bengal Foundation Luvu Nahid Choudhury delivered the welcome address while Chhayanaut guru Dr. Rezwan Ali Lablu elaborated on classical music at the event.

Moushumi Biswas set off the soiree with a khayal on Raga Madhuvanti. Moushumi's immersion in the vilambit bandish (on vilambit ektaal) "Sham Bhayee Ghanosham Nehi Aaye" of the raga was evocative. The artiste's drut bandish (on teentaal) "Kahey Maan Karo Sakhi Ri Ab", her bol-baat and drut sargam taan performance were commendable. Tabla

artiste Iftekhar Alam Pradhan Dollar performed well, presenting a lahora.

Golden Mondal next performed khayal on Raga Bhinno Saroj. Promising artiste Salok Hossain then performed with surmandal in a romantic Raga Behag. His vilambit bandish "Kawana Dhang Tora" was on vilambit ektaal while his drut bandish "Ab Hoon Lalan Mein Ka" was on teentaal. Salok's ragdari, pukar, bol-baat, and akar taan performance were quite fascinating. Dollar's tabla lahora followed by a nine-guna tehai was well received by the audience.

The highlight of the evening was a jugalbandi dhrupad performance by noted artiste Dr. Asit Roy and his disciple Md. Alamgir Parvez. Both artistes are the teachers of the Department of Music of RU. The artiste duo started off with a dhrupad alap followed by jor and jhala set on Raga Malkauns. Accomplished Pakhawaj artiste Sushen Roy accompanied the artiste duo on choutaal during the dhrupad bandish. Asit Roy and Alamgir Parvez later performed

another dhrupad bandish "Shankara Girija Pati" on sultaal. The performance had remarkable features including gamak, meend, ragdari, pukar and outstanding layakari and bol-baat in mandra saptak.

Dr. Asit Roy's equal interplay of melody in three saptak (octaves) together with chhut gamak in mandra saptak evoked the melancholy of Malkauns. The blissful silence in the audience said it all.

The artiste duo later performed a dhrupad alap and dhrupad bandish "Barase Jhuma Jhuma" set on a monsoon raga Mian Ki Malhar.

Rajshahi is one of the prominent cities of the Barendra region of Bangladesh. Eminent kirtania of Dhrupad Shaili Narottam Das Goswami and eminent music guru Sangeetacharya Radhika Mohan Maitra were born in that part of Bengal. Legendary vocal maestros of the sub-continent Ustad Faiyaz Khan, Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan along with Sarodia Ustad Mohammad Amir Khan left their footprints at the Padma and the Mahananda-washed region.

PHOTO COURTESY: BENGAL FOUNDATION

Pandit Amaresh Roy Chowdhury performs at IGCC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent classical vocalist Pandit Amaresh Roy Chowdhury performed in a solo soiree of classical music at Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC), Gulshan, Dhaka on May 30.

The 86-year old vocalist performed two khayal, a Nazrul Sangeet "Mahabidya Adyashakti" and an adhunik song "Modhur Amar Mayer Hashi" in one a half hour long soiree.

The artiste started off with an evening Raga Yaman that was set on vilambit ektaal, jaap taal and teentaal. Later, Roy presented another khayal set on Raga Abhogi. The performance was on vilambit ektaal and teentaal.

The artiste's performed a variety of sargam, bistar and taan. His immaculate ragdari and exquisite pukar stood out among other features of his performances, taking his presentation to a spiritual height.

Jatan Kumar Paul on tabla, Dr. Jagadananda Roy on harmonium and Aloke Kumar Sen on tanpura accompanied the artiste.

Born in 1928 at Faridpur, Pandit Amaresh Roy Chowdhury learned classical music from legendary



classical vocalists -- Sudhir Lal Chakrabarty, Harihar Shukla and Tarapada Chakrabarty. He also took lessons on adhunik songs, Atulprasad's songs, Nazrul Sangeet and Shyama Sangeet from Netrakona's noted artiste and composer, Nikhil Chandra Sen.

Chowdhury has received many awards and titles during his illustrious career. These include Sanket Sangskritik Goshthi award in 1981; "Ustad Gul Mohammad Memorial Award" by Sangeet Academy, Dhaka in 1982; "Gunijan Sammanona" by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka in 1997; National Leader Shaheed "AHM Kamaruzzaman Sammanona Smarak" on the Victory Day in 2010 and "Rabindra Padak" by Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad in 2014.

IGCC in association with Asian Paints, IRCON and Marico Bangladesh organised the event.

Shilpacharya's death anniversary observed

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Marking the 38th death anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, a discussion was held at the auditorium of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala (SZAS) in the town on May 28.

Additional District Magistrate Mollica Khatun attended the meeting as chief guest while Additional Police Superintendent SM Jahangir Sarker was the special guest while deputy keeper of the art gallery Dr. Bijoy Krishna Banik chaired the event.

The speakers pointed out that master artist Shilpacharya placed Bangladesh arts on the world map.

We must promote the ideology and art works of the maestro, said the speakers.

Shilpacharya was born in Mymensingh and the people of Mymensingh have taken the lead to uphold the contributions of the world renowned artist, added the speakers.

Marking the death anniversary, a painting competition for children was organised by SZAS at its premises on May 23.

Later, the guests distributed prizes among 12 winners from four groups that participated in the painting competition.

A mixed bag of refreshing melodies Gaan Pagol gives debut performance at Bokultola

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Bangladesh's music scene has seen a great deal of variety in bands, in terms of genres. From Western influenced pop, rock and the extremities of metal to folk and experimental sounds, listeners have had a taste of it all. However, the newest band to have announced themselves on the scene has taken a path that has not been treaded before: of having Hindustani classical music at its core.

Mohammad Shoeb is a familiar name to those who have been following the country's music scene closely; a teacher at the Department of Music at Dhaka University, he has been performing with Arnob, as part of his ensemble Arnob & Friends, for a while. He is the centre-piece of the 10-man band Gaan Pagol -- that had its launching concert at the Bokultola of Charukola (Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University) on a cool Friday evening (May 30).

Shoeb said the band's motto is to hold classical music at the heart of their music; the band feels that whatever type of music one does, they must know the grammar. Whatever the theme of their lyrics were -- patriotism, nature and seasons, love, or the song about themselves called



"Gaan Pagoler Dol", the touch of classical music was evident. While some of the tracks were based more on classical styles -- one of them styled like a thumri, there were folk-based compositions, one of them Santal-flavoured and another from an Ahamiya (originated from Assam, India) groove and a rather typical contemporary band-like song, the essence of classical music was clear in all of them. The band also did an Abdul Alim classic "Kar Lagiya Gatho Phooler Mala" and a Rabindra Sangeet "Pagla Hawa'r Badol Dine".

The instrumental arrangement of the band was elaborate; from traditional instruments like guitars and

bass, flute and violin, tastes of folk were brought in by the Khamak and mandira, Western and Eastern flavours intertwined with the use of cello and mandolin, while the percussion ranged from cajon to the djembe (African floor-drum), symbols and South Indian instrument ghatam.

Shoeb's light-hearted demeanour and humorous quips and comments made the performance even more pleasurable, as he went on to introduce every member with a little bit of back-story about everybody. The instrumental arrangements were also fairly compact, and Shoeb's silky vocals were backed up harmoniously by the others when needed.

CHIT-CHAT

TARIN: A taste of success

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The versatile Tarin is a very popular face in television plays, while she has won many hearts as a model, dancer, singer and occasional appearances on celluloid.

After a hiatus of two years, Tarin recently wrapped up shooting for a TVC for "Cocola Noodles" made by Biplob Rahman. In the project, her elder sister Nahin was assigned as beautician.

Tarin recently released a solo album "Akash Debo Kakey", which was warmly received by her fans.

After this heady success, the multi-talented actress-singer is working on her second solo album where she renders a song on her father, written by Zulfikar Russel. Her first album featured a song on her mother which became very popular.

Although Tarin has revealed her talents as singer-model, she is mainly viewed as an ideal actress. Her works were critically acclaimed as she is very choosy about her roles. She will be seen acting in some notable TV plays this Eid.

A few plays are likely to be made this Eid from her production house.

She recently played a character named Nusrat in a play "Kalo Mokmol". She also sang the title song of the play "Akash Tulechhe Pal Shada Megher Dal".

Meanwhile, she has acted in two one-hour TV plays-- "Bewarish Manush" and "Aparahnno".

Earlier, she sang for a drama serial "Sapnagulo Jonak Pokar Motho" directed by Chayanika Chowdhury.



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