

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



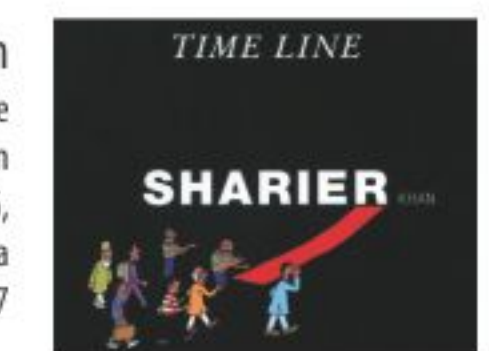
Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Of Man and Earth II by Syed Jahangir
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60, Gulshan Avenue, Rd-131, Circle-1
Date: May 31-June 21
Time: 12pm-8pm daily



Star Melodies
Title: Tagore Melodies on Silver Screen
Organiser: The Daily Star
Venue: The Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct, 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue



Solo Cartoon Exhibition
Title: Time Line
Cartoonist: Sharier Khan
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara
Date: June 14-27



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Unconsciously Conscious
Artist: Abdul Guffar Babu
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Date: June 4-18
Time: 3-9pm; 9am-12pm & 5-8pm



NEWS bytes
McCartney postpones US tour dates



Sir Paul McCartney has postponed a number of US tour dates while he continues to recover from a virus he contracted last month. The 71-year-old told fans he was "feeling great" but was skipping his first seven US shows on medical advice. The concerts, which were due to begin on June 14 in Lubbock, Texas, have been rescheduled to October. The former Beatle previously cancelled the Japan leg of his "Out There" tour and a show in South Korea after falling ill last month. He spent six days in a Tokyo hospital while he was treated for the viral infection. "I'm feeling great but taking my doc's advice to take it easy for just a few more days," Sir Paul said on his website.

Source: BBC



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

As the curtains rise on the 2014 FIFA World Cup, 'The Biggest Show on Earth', Bangladesh is well and truly revving. With flags, jerseys and wall paintings, there is no other sporting event that is celebrated with more festivity and fervour. The biggest stars of the entertainment fraternity are just as involved and invested on the tournament as any other. Our stars will be staying up unearthy hours in front of the TV screen to root for their hot favourites. Which footballer makes them tick, what are their early memories of the game--the celebrities needed no prodding to hold forth on the newest distraction in town.

Here are four popular actors, sharing their World Cup thoughts.

Zahid Hasan



I'm a supporter of Argentina. I have supported the team from the time of Maradona, who is my favourite football player. The World Cup evokes excitement as it comes every four years. Like everyone, I plan to spend sleepless nights to watch every match. Particularly, I don't want to miss the games of the big teams. This time I'm going to Brazil where I will enjoy the quarter finals and semi finals from the

stadium. I had a longstanding plan to watch the event at the stadium but failed to manage time due to my hectic hours. But this time I bought tickets for the quarter finals and semi finals well in advance, to enjoy the World Cup to its fullest. I'm hoping Argentina will do well this time, with Messi leading them. Besides, I also think Germany, Portugal and Spain will play good football.



Mahfuz Ahmed
Brazil is my favorite team. As Brazil makes its game entertaining, they are very popular worldwide. The team became my favourite, during my student

life. Pele is my favorite player. I'm hopeful about Brazil winning the cup as they have a strong squad. I won't miss any of the games of Brazil, Argentina, Spain and Germany.

Although the country is gripped in football fever, I think the most memorable day for all of us football fans will be when Bangladesh participates in the football World Cup.



Chanchal Chowdhury
I've been a supporter of Argentina since my childhood. Maradona and Messi are my favorite footballers. Like other years, I want to watch

every match this time and if it is Argentina, there is no chance of missing the game. I'm also looking forward to the inauguration ceremony. It's tough to say who will win the World Cup this time, as anything can happen in sports, but I hope it is Argentina.

Football has been close to my heart from a very early age. There was a school playground beside my village home in Pabna then. Almost every day we played football those days. Apart from this, I participated in the local football tournaments. My friends and I also played football at the char of Padma.

Apurbo



Brazil is my favourite team. Although I plan to watch each match, I'll make sure I won't miss any of the Brazil games. It's still too early to say who will win the World Cup. As Brazil is a strong team and hosting the event, I'm hopeful about the team winning the cup.

As World Cup comes every four years, everyone is very excited over the game. My family members are gearing up to spend sleepless nights during the World Cup. I was sad to know that Kaka was left out from Brazil's squad. But Neymar's presence is a big relief.

The pick of World Cup songs

The 2014 FIFA World Cup's official theme song "We Are One", recorded by Jennifer Lopez with US rapper Pitbull and Brazilian singer Claudia Leitte, has been criticised for being generic, with a video "that looks like a cheap ad for a tour operator".

Yet there are plenty of alternatives vying for the airwaves - including one from Monty Python, who announced on Sunday that they were releasing a version of one of their 1979 tracks as an unofficial anthem.

Here are five of the best tunes competing alongside the football in the 2014 World Cup.

"Always Look on the Bright Side of Life" - Monty Python

Acknowledging the lack of optimism around England's chances going into the tournament, Monty Python has added a verse to the closing song from their film "Life of Brian". It was originally composed to cheer up a young man mistaken for the Messiah (played by Graham Chapman) as he dangled from a cross, but has since become a popular stadium sing-along.

"La La La" - Shakira

Shakira follows up her official song for the 2010 World Cup, "Waka Waka



Shakira's "La la la" has been one of the top favourites of the tournament.

(This time for Africa)", with a track that features thumping rhythms and a monosyllabic chorus. The Colombian pop diva does Samba in a leather bustier, drafting in Brazilian musician Carlinhos Brown for a guest spot on a new version of her song "Dare (La La La)". The accompanying video features her partner Gerard Pique with his Barcelona team-mates Cesc Fabregas and Lionel Messi and Argentina striker Sergio Aguero. As well as beating a giant drum, Shakira attempts to outrun an eagle while her one-year-old son kicks a ball at an elephant.

"Zinedine Zidane" - Vaudeville Smash

A song about Zinedine Zidane, in which Australian sports broadcaster Les Murray reads out the names of famous footballers over the top of an electronic track by the band Vaudeville Smash, has become a viral hit, with more than 430,000 YouTube views in just over a week. The video references the moment in the 2006 World Cup final when the French player headbutted Italian player Marco Materazzi, while men in Zidane masks have a brawl in a convenience store. With driving beats and a soaring chorus, this is perhaps the only World Cup song that could make

the cross over from sports anthem to club anthem.

"Red, White and Blue" - The Soccer Gods

A honky tonk band marks the 20 years since the US first hosted the World Cup, with a song celebrating fandom. The video features red-haired US defender Alexi Lalas, considered the standout player of the 1994 side, talking down the team's chances as he signs a football; after a series of all-American scenes including bandannas, cut-off jean shorts and a pick-up truck he appears to have been convinced that the US can win.

"Bass like Home" - Lily Allen

Lily Allen - whose dad Keith helped to make what is arguably one of the greatest unofficial anthems ever, "Vindaloo" - has unveiled a garage pop tune called "Bass Like Home" with lines reciting England's greatest contributions to the world. "Vindaloo", an unofficial single recorded for the 1998 World Cup, was composed by Blur bassist Alex James as a parody of football chants, and went on to become a cult classic.

Source: BBC

To Be (there) Or Not To Be
Bangladesh's participation in 2015 Venice Biennale

GIORGIO GUGLIELMINO

In May 2015, the 56th edition of the Venice Biennale of the visual arts will open its gates. Curated by Nigerian-born American curator Okwui Enwezor, the Venice Biennale has recently been voted once again the most influential event in the world of contemporary art.

Bangladesh took part in the previous two editions of the Venice Biennale. In 2011 (the very first time Bangladesh had done so) with a group of five artists belonging to Britto, the organisation managed and led by Tayeba Begum Lipi and Mahabub Rahman, who were themselves participating artists. We have them to thank for succeeding in attracting interest in taking part in the Biennale, as well as for having managed to complete all the practical formalities (with a little thanks to my efforts too, since a substantial portion of the funding needed to participate was collected at a major art sale organised on 24-26 February, 2011 at my residence).

Bangladesh's participation drew curiosity and a degree of appreciation which above all attracted international interest in the work of Tayeba Lipi (Christie's auctioned two of her works; another work was bought by the Guggenheim in New York).

Due, in part, perhaps to the fact that the prominence and visibility of the Venice Biennale had not been particularly evident to everyone, in 2011 the Britto group had organised its participation, without any excessive external pressure, and without other artists trying to gain access to the Bangladesh Pavilion. But in 2013 things were not so simple. An excessively large, and above all heterogeneous, number of artists were invited to participate. Some tried to elbow their way in, others declined the invitation, but the end result was very mixed, and basically reflected the pattern of many exhibitions that are staged in Dhaka: 10 walls available, 20 invited artists, with 3 works each. Nothing could be more distant from the spirit of the Venice Biennale. The vast majority of the countries taking part in the Venice Biennale send one artist to their Pavilion, who is given the task of setting out the whole area. Sometimes



"Love Bed" by Tyeba Begum Lipi.

with a collection of works, or at other times with one large installation designed specifically for the occasion bearing in mind the theme of the Biennale (in 2013 the theme was "The encyclopaedic palace").

In 2011, the Bangladesh Pavilion, despite the presence of five artists, nevertheless worked well, because all of them came from the same group and in spite of their differences one could sense a common shared feeling and practical approach to their art. In 2011, it was also Bangladesh's first time, and the curiosity of the viewers and the artistic community turned a blind eye to any possible minor flaws in the overall selection of works on display. But in 2013 the pavilion was not a success. The worst thing about it was not the criticisms that were levelled at it, so much as the general indifference to what was on display.

Will Bangladesh be taking part in the 2015 Venice Biennale? I really hope it will. In Italian we have a proverb that says "There is no two without a three" -- 'third time lucky' -- and so Bangladesh's participation can almost be taken for granted. But in order to ensure that the 2015 exhibits are able to attract attention and appreciation a different conceptual approach must be adopted this time.

It is not for me to say who ought to represent Bangladesh, even though I admit that after having frequented Dhaka's artistic community for nearly 4 years, I do have a few ideas of my own... But my suggestion to whoever has to make the choice (and to my friend the Minister, Asaduzzaman Noor) is to stick to only one single artist, and give him or her the difficult, challenging but wonderful task of representing the whole country, powerfully and coherently through his or her own works.

The time is past when it was possible to send out a team of players who had never played together before, with a predictable result. It is now time to send just one young artist, vested with total trust and confidence.

The writer is Ambassador of Italy to Bangladesh.

TV WATCH

FIFA WORLD CUP Brasil

FIFA World Cup
Live on three channels

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After some confusion about which TV channel would telecast the 2014 FIFA World Cup and concerns that no TV channel would get permission to do so, three TV channels-- BITV, Maasranga TV and Gtv will beam all the matches.

Bangladesh Football Federation President Kazi Salauddin, resolved the issue through discussion with all concerned parties.

All three channels will broadcast the opening ceremony at midnight, followed by the opening fixture between hosts Brazil and Croatia.

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