

WHAT'S ON

Poetry Recitation  
By Syed Shamsul Haq  
Venue: Daily Star-Bengal Arts  
Precinct, The Daily Star Centre  
Date: June 24  
Time: 6pm



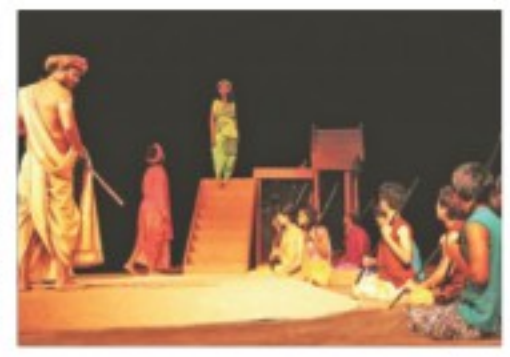
Solo Cartoon Exhibition  
Title: Time Line  
Cartoonist: Sharier Khan  
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara  
Date: June 14-27  
Time: 11am-8pm



Art Exhibition  
Title: Artistic Musings of Greats  
Collector: Nasir Ali Mamun  
Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 14-July 5  
Time: 12pm-8pm



Theatre  
Title: Khona  
Troupe: BotTala  
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Date: June 23  
Time: 7pm



Print & Art Exhibition  
Artists: Ahmed Nazir and Some  
Renowned Artists of 30's & 40's  
Venue: Gallery Chitrak, H-4, Rd-6, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 20-July 5  
Time: 10am-8pm



## NEWS bytes

### Rian Johnson to helm Star Wars sequels

It's reported Rian Johnson has been hired to write and direct the eighth and ninth Star Wars films. Industry website Deadline says the director is making a deal with Lucasfilm. He's previously directed sci-fi "Looper" and independent film "Brick". JJ Abrams is currently filming "Star Wars Episode VII" at Pinewood Studios, which features original cast members Harrison Ford and Mark Hamill.



In an apparent nod to his appointment, Johnson has posted a short video on his Twitter feed. The clip, from 1983 movie "The Right Stuff", sees an astronaut making an expletive about the job he's about to do in space.

As well as "Looper", Johnson has also directed several episodes of Breaking Bad including the critically acclaimed "Ozymandias", one of the final episodes of the fifth series.

Source: BBC

## IT'S TRUE!

While still a small child, Kaki King's father noticed her natural musical ability, and encouraged her interest in music. She was introduced to the guitar at the age of four and played for several years, but took up the drums a few years later. While at university, King picked up the guitar again, and revisited the finger-style techniques that intrigued her as a child. King played a few occasional gigs and busked in the New York City Subway. In February 2006, Rolling Stone magazine released a list of "The New Guitar Gods", on which King was the sole woman and youngest artiste, beating Derek Trucks by two months.



FAHMIM FERDOUS

Fete de la Musique, or World Music Day, is celebrated in many countries across the world, but the initiators of the festival, France, still celebrates it in higher spirit than most others. As part of the programmes, the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka (AFD) invited Farjo Abaji, the French-Lebanese multi-instrumentalist, for a concert that also featured noted baul artistes of Bangladesh, Rob Fakir (vocals, dotara), Baby Dewan (vocals), Nazrul Islam (harmonium), Jalal Ahmed (flute), Shafiqul Islam (Dhol), Poran Fakir (khamak) and Shamim Islam (mandira). The event was held at the AFD's La Galerie on June 21. Olivier Litvine, Director, AFD inaugurated the event, with the audience already filling up the seats even before the performances began.

This is Abaji's third visit to Dhaka, and he was comfortable with the audience right away, in his usual charming, humorous demeanour. And his music was ever-so-refreshing firstly because of the various musical flavours he incorporated in them –from Middle-East to Central Asia to European classical and folk, and secondly because of the range of his voice. From the very coarse, grungy low-pitch growling to the squeaky high-pitch falsettos, he moved between octaves and tones playfully, while engaging the audience to join in with hand-clapped percussions. Another of Abaji's most interesting aspects during his previous visits as well was his instruments, and the audience was not disappointed. What appeared to be an eight-stringed classical acoustic guitar in his hands, he later revealed was a 'fretless' fret on a guitar body, like a lute. Throughout the evening, he would go on to perform on an

array of instruments, from the common clarinet and harmonica to the most obscure Kemençe (a Turkish bottle-shaped bow lute), the bouzouki (a mandolin-like instrument most commonly used in Greek music) and a goblet drum (possibly a variant of the darbuka, a Eastern and North-African membranophone), exploring the range of tonalities and signature musical resonances.

But the most fascinating aspect of the evening was how music can intermingle and communicate without hindrance. Abaji invited two Bangladeshi musicians as guests to jam with, the first a flautist and the other a beat-box and khamak player, and without any prior arrangement or plan, the musicians blended in and traded notes in improvised performances.

Rob Fakir is one of the most highly-regarded bauls of the country, and his sombre, meditative rendition of two Lalon Shai songs brought in an entirely different ambience to the auditorium. He was followed by Baby Dewan, who performed a Shah Abdul

Karim song and later a Radharaman Dutta number, in a more upbeat, energetic display. Abaji, meanwhile, joined in with the clarinet on the second piece, and played some fantastic interludes, in a friendly musical duel with the impeccable Jalal Ahmed. The last performance, the collaboration of the bauls and the musician from across the seas, was the stand-out, with Abaji beginning a vocal groove that the folk musicians picked up and just swayed with, and the audience joining in with the choral 'chants' and in rhythmic clapping.

As the performance came to an end, the music lingered in the air. None of the bauls speak English, let alone French, and Abaji has next to no understanding of Bangla, but when their instruments spoke, it was like they were the oldest of friends, playing together for ages. There could not have been a better testament of the universality of music.

The event was held in association with Getco, with Radio Shadhin as its radio partner.



Abaji, performing with a flautist (top) and in a huddle with the bauls after the performance.

## The bounty of monsoon in melodies

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Monsoon is a season steeped in beauty, when bountiful Mother Nature unfolds herself. The advent of the season was well celebrated at a programme organised by Government Music College, Dhaka on June 21. The event was held at National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, graced the occasion as chief guest



Asaduzzaman Noor recites; artistes perform a choral song.

while principal of the music college, Professor Shameema Parveen presided over the programme.

Noted Tagore singer Lily Islam started off the event with a 'stotro' from epic poet Kalidas' "Meghadootam" (The Cloud Messenger). It was followed by the offering of a Tagore song "Abar Eshechhey Asharh". The melancholy of Yaksha [of "Meghadootam"] subsequently reverberated in Bengali literature and music by bards like Tagore, Nazrul

and others.

Mohammad Shueb directed and led a choral classical piece set on Raga Megh. The bandish "Gaganey Garajata Damakata Damini" along with the tarana "Drim Ta Na Na" seemed to resonate with the droning and thrumming musical sound and with the visuals of thunder and lightning, tantrum of winds, swaying branches of trees and other features of monsoon. The artistes' sargam taan coupled with tehai and Shueb's hum-

The artistes of Music College later performed a medley of two songs "Esho Shyamal Sundar" that Tagore composed prior to a Borshamongol programme at Shantineketan in 1937 and a Kazi Nazrul Islam composition "Esho Hey Sajal Shyam Ghano Deya" set on raga Adana.

The event also featured solo monsoon melodies by the teachers and students of the Music College. Among others, Lily Islam performed a Tagore song "Shawan Gaganey", Urbi



PHOTO: MAHMUDA TULI

ming marveled the audience.

Dr. Fakir Shahidul Islam also presented a chhoto kheyal based on a monsoon Raga Miyan Ki Malhar.

Professor Shameema Parveen then invited the chief guest to recite a poem. Asaduzzaman Noor instantly took the Geetabitan in his hands and recited a Tagore song "Tumi Kemon Kore Gaan Koro Hey Guni". The audience received the presentation with rounds of applause.

Shom presented a Nazrul number "Shawan Ashilo Phirey", Mafizur Rahman also sang a Nazrul Sangeet "Keno Megher Chhaya" and Rokhsana Aktar Rupsha presented a folk song "Joshti Na Ashadh-e Borshar Joarey".

Professor Shameema Parveen and music researcher Kamol Khalid read out excerpts and allusions on monsoon throughout the programme. The set of the programme was apt while the sound and accompanying instrumental music appeared soothing.

## World Music Day observed in Sylhet



A chorus performance at the event.

PHOTO: STAR

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

In observance of the World Music day, the Sylhet Zila Shilpakala Academy arranged a Sangeet Utshab at its auditorium on Saturday evening.

The programme featured patriotic songs, Tagore songs, Nazrul sangeet, Lalon geeti, palli geeti, Radharaman and Baul songs.

Artistes from different organisations such as Tarunya Sylhet, Tanpura Shilpi Goshthi, Surma parer gaan, Sylhet and Arkum Shah Shilpi Goshthi performed.

Students of the Shilpakala Academy's music department also took part in the renditions.

Besides, senior artistes Himangshu Biswas, Jamal Uddin Hasan, Protik, Animesh Bijoy Chowdhury, Nikhil Das, Iqbal Sai and Baul Surjolal Das rendered solos.

Veteran folk artiste Sushma Das formally inaugurated the event by lighting traditional lamps, while Deputy Commissioner Md. Shahidul Islam was the chief guest.

## Reciting poems on a boat Kabita Bhasan at JKKNUI

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A group of poets gathered on the campus of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKKNUI) in Trishal on recently at a poetry recitation session.

The event, titled "Kabita Bhasan" was held on "Sindhusharash", a boat on the lake of the university.

Cultural activists also took part in the session.

The three-hour session was chaired by Prof Mohir Ul Alam, vice-chancellor of JKKNUI, who is also a poet.

Poets Sabbir Chowdhury, Mosharrar Karim, Shamsul Faye, Awlad Hossain, Sajal Koraishi, Tapon Barmon, Shabeh Mahmud, Idris Kajal and Ruhul Amin Badal took part in the session.

The apt recitation of poems written on a variety of subjects included love and monsoon, which made the event a joyous one.

Earlier, a discussion was held marking the occasion.

The poets said such gathering can develop a bond among the poets and writers to benefit Bangla literature.

A gathering of poets on a university campus will surely inspire its students and its teachers to practice creative works rooted to our history, culture and tradition, the poets said.

The poets also remembered Prof Khondakar Ashraf Hossain, a poet and writer, also former-vice chancellor of JKKNUI who died in June last year.

Poet Ehsan Habib presented the session.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR FAVOURITE MARVEL SUPERHEROES



The Daily Star | STAR Cineplex

**X-MEN QUIZ CONTEST**

10 winners everyday! 2 Premium tickets for each winner

**Quiz 06**

1. Who brought the movie X-men Days of Future Past in Bangladesh?  
2. The total runtime/Movie length of X-men Days of Future Past?

**Answer of quiz 05**

1. Halle Berry; 2. Nicholas Hoult

**Quiz 05 Winners**

1. Md. Rajiul Hasan Rajib, Gulshan-1; 2. Ishita Jahan, Bashundhara R/A; 3. Faria Zakir Riya, Zigatola; 4. Talist Farzana Tora, Uttara; 5. Parbati Das, Dhaka University; 6. Ishraqul Islam, Lalmatia; 7. Monsur Aziz, Mirpur-1; 8. Andaleeb Amin, Kazi Para; 9. Shuvo Islam, Agargaon; 10. Sajeeb Sahriar, Dhanmondi

email your answers to [marvels.xmen@gmail.com](mailto:marvels.xmen@gmail.com) by 4.00pm today with your name, DOB, mobile number and address. The winners of the quiz will be announced tomorrow in the newspaper and through email.

"Shera Ami Shonge Ma" resumes



Speakers at the press conference.

A CORRESPONDENT

Dettol, the flagship brand of Reckitt Benckiser Bangladesh, has created unique platform called "Dettol Shera Ami Shonge Ma", where mothers and kids explore their talents to be the country's best mom and child pair, selected and honoured through many interesting games and performance.

The show is set to return to the screens of Rtv for the third season soon, officials announced recently. The programme was formally inaugurated through a press conference held yesterday, where Mahbub Baset, marketing director, Reckitt Benckiser Bangladesh, Faria Yasmin, marketing manager, Reckitt Benckiser Bangladesh and Syed Ashik Rahman, CEO, RTV were present.

GET YOUR SMART PHONES FROM SINGER OUTLETS



HUAWEI • SYMPHONY • LG