

WHAT'S ON

Photography Exhibition
Life and works of Tajuddin Ahmed
Venue: Gallery 21, Dhanmondi
Date: July 19-September 8
Time: 12pm-8pm



Photography Exhibition
Simple Pleasures of Life
Organiser: Eastern Bank Limited
Venue: Drik Gallery
Date: August 14-16



Solo Watercolour Exhibition
Title: "Jol Chobi" by Shahanoor Mamun
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Française De Dhaka



Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: "Momentary History" by Niamul Bari
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Date: August 12-30



Album Launch
Album: Koto Chameli Britha Jaye
by Dia
Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum
Date: August 22
Time: 6:30pm



NEWS bytes

Betty Boop set for film revival

Animated character Betty Boop is to be brought back to the big screen to appear in her first feature-length film. The film arm of Simon Cowell's Syco Entertainment is partnering with Animal Logic Entertainment - the team behind the "Lego Movie" - to make the movie. The production has been described as a "music-driven hybrid animated comedy".

Boop first hit screens in 1930 and had her own series, famously spawning her catchphrase "Boop-Oop-a-Doop".

Cowell tweeted a picture of himself with the coy character saying: "I've worked with some serious divas but I think Betty could be the biggest of them all." Producers also released a 'statement' from Boop saying: "I'm so excited to return to the big screen - and I only work with the best! Let's have some fun, Simon."

The character was created by Max Fleischer for his Talkartoons series - the first animation "talkies", with Mae Questel providing Boop's distinctive voice.



IT'S TRUE!

Several paintings by Pablo Picasso -- one of the most influential artists of the 20th century -- rank among the most expensive paintings in the world.

"Garçon à la pipe" sold for US\$104 million at Sotheby's on 4 May 2004, establishing a new price record. "Dora Maar au Chat" sold for US\$95.2 million at Sotheby's on 3 May 2006. On 4 May 2010, "Nude, Green Leaves and Bust" was sold at Christie's for \$106.5 million. Not surprisingly, more of his paintings have been stolen than those by any other artist; the Art Loss Register has a staggering number of 550 of his works listed as missing.



The vociferous voice of music

Indigenous week comes to an end with performance

ZAHANGIR ALAM

Madol, a musical band, enthralled a packed audience at National Library Auditorium, Agargaon in the capital on August 14. Marking International Indigenous Day 2014, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum (BAF) organised the weeklong programmes that came to an end through an igniting performance.

Madol members set off the event with the number "Jago Jago Sorbohara". Later, they performed songs of rebellion, protest and breaking the chain of exploitation. A boisterous young Adivasi audience clapped, screamed in melodic bliss and serenaded several numbers with the band members. The essence of the live performance was themed on "Ei Gaan Hok Bohu Astahinotar Biporite-Ek Gobhir Asthar Gaan".

Madol artistes performed Bawm, Chakma and Mandi [of Garo community] songs at the event. They also presented their original songs including "Ami Adivasi", "Ami Filistin (Palestine)", "Karnafulir Kanna", "Madol Bajey", "Mukti Chai", "Jhomar Chhonhey" and "John Henry".

Their music predominantly focused on themes of deprivation, exploitation, injustice, agony and struggle of mass people.

Madol was founded in December, 2009 at Rajshahi University as a cultural group with members from all adivasi communities across Bangladesh. Over the years, it has become a music band. The place of diversity of the band is that it included members of Chakma, Bawm, Mandi and Singh. The band comprises Sham Sagor Mankin (vocal), Jemson Amlai (lead guitar), Riton Chakma

(rhythm guitar and backing vocal), Anthony Rema (drums), Sayon Mangsang (flute), Antar Sku (bass guitar) and Harendranath Singh (madol).

Guest artiste Sanjeeb Drong rendered three Bhupen Hazarika songs -- "Pratidhwani Shuni", "Sheetaro Shishir Bhejano Raat-e" and Saheli Saheli". Sanjeeb Drong, a writer-activist, swayed the audience with his inspirational and patriotic songs. Another guest artiste, Shyamabati Chakma Chaiti, also presented two songs at the event. One of her featured performances evoked nostalgia revolving around hilly landscape.

President of BAF, Jyotirindra Bodhipriyo Larma, veteran politician Pankaj Bhattacharya, Dhaka University teachers Robayet Ferdous and Shantanu Majumdar, singer Kafil Ahmed and veteran guitarist-singer Maqsood, among others, attended the event.

Lakshyapar's ode to monsoon

Musical soiree and lecture in Narayanganj



Artistes perform at the event.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The monsoon session of Lakshyapar was held on August 8 evening at Narayanganj High School and College auditorium. The classical music soiree featured four artistes -- Sharmila Majumdar, Barsha Majumdar Papri, Priyanka Das Tithi and Supriya Das, all from Sylhet and disciples of the same guru - Pandit Ramkanai Das. The artistes performed monsoon-themed ragas and songs based on ragas. The concept of the programme was designed in the form of a lecture demonstration and not kheyal recitals only. With an eye to building up a new generation audience of classical music, the script of the programme incorporated four sections,

The song associated with the raga was "Shraban Megh Maya".

Sharmila Majumdar took up raga Jaajawanti. Though not a monsoon raga, Jaajawanti has special appeal and connotations with Malhar and Megh. Sharmila's profound and cool performance of the kheyal was followed by three Nazrul songs -- "Abar Ki Elore Badol", "Megh-e Megh-e Ondho" and "Megh Medur Borosha".

The other clusters of presentation included raga -- Shudh Malhar, Sur Malhar, Nat Malhar and Megh. The audience seemed moved by Supriya's offering of raga Megh. She invigorated the Lakshyapar audience by her musical creativity, skill and emotion. Variation followed in the middle with the presentation of kajri, a folk song. Sabuj Ahmed accompanied the performers on tabla throughout the programme. Host Sumana Biswas added a new dimension to the event reciting famous poems on monsoon. The two-hour soiree attracted a sizeable young audience who enjoyed classical and semi-classical genres.

At the beginning, chief advisor of Lakshyapar Kashem Jamal handed over "Haradhan-Sukhen Classical Music Scholarship" money to six recipients from last year's competition.

Online stations Radio Lakshyapar and Radio Nree broadcast the programme live. FB Fashion Private Limited remains the leading patron for all the seasonal sessions, schooling and scholarship programmes of Lakshyapar.

Travelling Film South Asia in Delhi

Daring documentaries

KAVITA, New Delhi

Whoever said documentaries had to be soporific and only an exclusive club of documentary filmmakers became excited about the genre?

The enthusiastic crowd that turned up at the recent four-day Travelling Film South Asia 2014 -- A festival of South Asian documentaries, proved otherwise. For four days, Delhi audiences had a taste of finely nuanced non-fiction films from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Burma, Sri Lanka, Nepal and India. Bangladesh went unrepresented as the acclaimed; "Shunte K Pao!" had to pull out from the festival at the last moment.

The films made strong social and political statements -- be it through the lens of human rights, migration or gender. So there was "My Punjabi Love for You" from Pakistan, "No Burqas Behind Bars" (Afghanistan), "No 62 Pansodan Street" (Burma) that won the Tareque Masud Award for Best Debut Film at Film South Asia 2013. Then there were Sri Lankan films based on the Sri Lankan civil war, "The Story of One" and the hard to watch "No Fire Zone", an investigative documentary of the gross human rights violations in the final weeks of the Sri Lankan civil war.

No, there was no running theme at the festival, says Mallika Aryal, the young adviser to the biennial Film South Asia (FSA) that precedes the Travelling Film Festival of documentaries from South Asia. "Film South Asia tries to include all kinds of voices from South Asia. 'No Burqas Behind Bars' is a balanced, objective view of the lives of women who have been put behind bars in Afghanistan for petty offences like eloping with the wrong guy. 'Who Will Be a Gurkha' from Nepal is about young boys recruited by the gurkha regiment in UK through a rigorous process with hints of a colonial mindset," says Aryal.

The much-applauded "Invoking Justice" from India had an unusual theme -- women Jamaats in Tamil Nadu, South India that apply the Islamic Sharia law to different cases.

But the documentary film movement is clearly at the crossroads. On one hand, dramatic cutting-edge technologies make for more affordable and easier filming, editing and screening, but on the other are major lacunae. Says the Kathmandu-based Kanak Mani Dixit, well known editor of Himal and chairperson Film South Asia: "The documentary movement has been derailed in South Asia. The craft of filmmaking has suffered while technology has advanced. Non-fiction films need to win audience's hearts, convey important messages and look at issues in new ways".

However, opinion is unanimous that documentaries occupy a niche all their own. "Documentaries afford more space for saying things that can't be said in the mainstream media," says Mitu Varma, director Film South Asia.



Art exhibition and contest in Sylhet

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

A five-day workshop and exhibition of young and senior artists at Sylhet Zila Shilpakala academy auditorium, closes tomorrow.

A total of 76 works of 44 artists were put on display on the exhibition that drew a good number of visitors.

Winners of the contest, held in 3 categories, were awarded certificate and crests at the inaugural function. The guests also unveiled a catalogue of selected pieces.

Deputy Commissioner Md. Shahidul Islam formally inaugurated the event, while other local dignitaries addressed it.

Jagannath University's Fine Arts and Graphics department head Md. Alaptogin Tushar is conducting the 3-day workshop, which began yesterday.



Visitors through the exhibition.

PHOTO: STAR



President Abdul Hamid has officially consented to be the Chief Guest at the Gala night of the Standard Chartered-The Daily Star Celebrating Life 2014 competition. Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher, The Daily Star (2-R); Bitopi Das Chowdhury, Head of Corporate Affairs, Standard Chartered Bank (R) and Rafi Hossain, Celebrating Life Director (L) -- visited the president at the Bangabhaban on Thursday to invite the president to the event.



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