

WHAT'S ON

Tribute To Altaf Mahmud

Organiser: Shaheed Altaf Mahmud Foundation  
Venue: Liberation War Museum, Segunbagicha  
Date: August 30  
Time: 6:30pm

Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: "Ode to Beauty" by Shama Shaom  
Venue: Galerie Zoom, Alliance Francaise De Dhaka  
Date: Aug 22- Sep 4  
Time: 3-9pm

Photography Exhibition

Life and works of Tajuddin Ahmed  
Venue: Gallery 21, Dhanmondi  
Date: July 19-September 8

Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: "Momentary History" by Niamul Bari  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts  
Date: August 12-30  
Time: 12-8pm

Ganga-Jamuna Theatre & Cultural Fest

Venue: National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

## NEWS bytes

### Pitt and Jolie tie the knot

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are now married, according to a spokesman for the Hollywood couple. Pitt, 50, and Jolie, 39, tied the knot in France on Saturday, ending years of speculation over when and where they would finally walk down the aisle. The actors were wed in a small chapel in Chateau Miraval in a private, nondenominational, civil ceremony attended by family and friends. Jolie walked along the aisle with her eldest sons Maddox and Pax, 13 and 10 respectively, while her

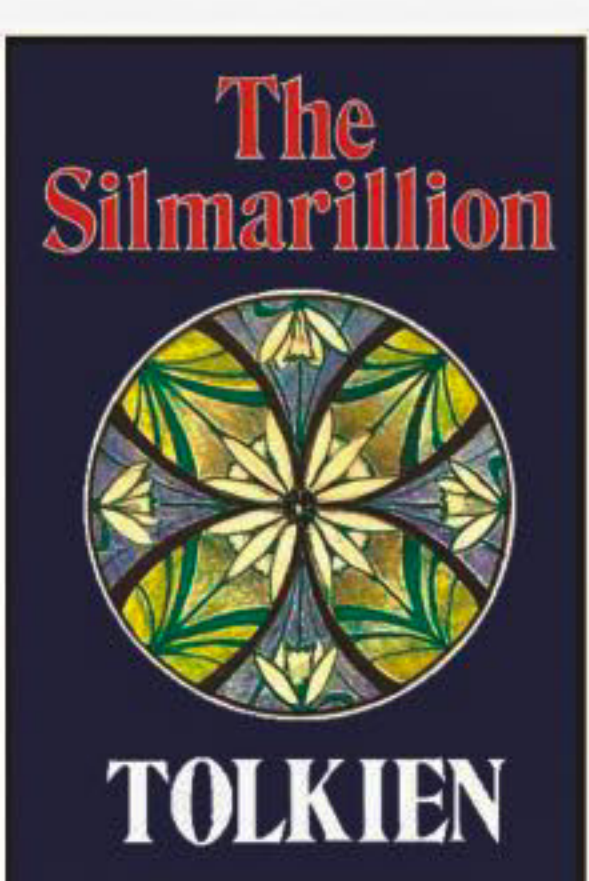


daughters Zahara, nine, and Vivienne, six, threw petals. Eight-year-old Shiloh and six-year-old Knox served as ring bearers, according to the couple's spokesman. The couple obtained a marriage license beforehand from a California judge who travelled to France to conduct the ceremony. The couple, whose relationship began after they starred together in the 2005 film "Mr and Mrs Smith", has been engaged since April 2012.

Source: BBC

### IT'S TRUE!

The German power metal band Blind Guardian released "Nightfall in Middle-Earth", a concept album based upon JRR Tolkien's fantasy novel "The Silmarillion". The album contains not only songs but also spoken passages narrating parts of the story. Austrian black metal band Summoning have also released numerous concept albums based on this and other works by Tolkien. In



their song "Belerian", the Australian indie band The Middle East incorporate many elements from "The Silmarillion". English progressive rock band Marillion were formed in 1979 as Silmarillion but shortened their name in 1981 to avoid any copyright conflict. Guitarist Jan Akkerman has also recorded a track called "The Silmarillion" on his 1977 album "Meditation".



PHOTO: STAR

## CELEBRATING SULTAN

### Three-day festival comes to an end

DANIEL SUGIT BOSE, Narail

Despite all the heat and rainfall, the last day of three-day long Sultan Utsab-2014 saw gathering of thousands at the Sultan Moncho premises in Narail Govt Victoria college compound under Narail municipality yesterday.

SM Sultan Shishu Charu-O-Karukola Foundation, Bengal

Foundation and Sultan Foundation, sponsored by mobile operator company Banglalink jointly organised the program to mark the 90th birth anniversary of world famous artist.

An art competition for kids was arranged at the Sultan Moncho on the concluding day yesterday.

Police Super of Narail inaugu-

rated that program at 9:30am, where more than 300 kids of different areas in the district participated.

A discussion was arranged in the evening, on Sultan's life and dreams. Dr Md Fayek Uj Jaman, vice chancellor of Khulna University attended the session as chief guest. A number of distinguished personalities spoke at the discussion. A cultural

programme followed, that brought the Sultan Utsab to a fitting end with music and theatre. Spectators from near and far enjoyed the programme and fair, which continued till midnight.

A traditional boat race will be held on river Chitra today, organised by Sultan Foundation, with help of Bangladesh Rowing Federation and Banglalink.

## The colours and grace of Bangladesh

### Painting Exhibition at Radisson Hotel



Guests visit the exhibition.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"True Colors - Rediscovering Bangladesh", is a distinctive painting exhibition that was inaugurated on August 25 at Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel, Dhaka (RBWGHD), held in collaboration with Dhaka Art Centre. The theme of the exhibition recreated the magic of the picturesque landscapes of Bangladesh on canvas as well as scenic watercolours.

The exhibition was inaugu-

rated by Brig. Gen. Jahangir Alam (Managing Director - Sena Hotel Developments Limited). Christoph Voegeli, general manager, Radisson Blu Dhaka, Saeed Ahmed, EAM and DOSM of Radisson Blu Dhaka, artists Abdul Mannan and Alakesh Ghosh and trustees of Dhaka Art Center.

The exhibition, that displays works of renowned artists Alakesh Ghosh and Abdul Mannan, will continue for a period of three months.

## An evening of Rabindra Sangeet in Moulvibazar

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Arunoday, a young cultural group in Moulvibazar organised a musical programme titled "Tomar Sathe Gaaner Khela" on Friday night, at the local Saifur Rahman Auditorium of Moulvibazar town. The event featured Tagore's songs and recitation of his poems.

Popular Indian artiste Shreya Guhathakurta and UK expatriate artist Nurul Islam enchanted the audience with their renditions.

Shreya Guhathakurta opened her performance with "Anandadhara Bohichhe Bhubone", and the duo followed it with classics like "Amar Hiyar Majhe Lukiye Chhile", "Ami Tori

Niye Bose Achhi", "Sokhi Bhalobasa Kare Koy", "Se Din Dujone Dulechhinu Bone", "Je Raate Mo'r Duar Guli Bhango Jhore", "Bhenge Mor Ghorer Chabi", "Gram Chhara Oi Rangamatir Poth", "Boney Jodi Futlo Kusum", "Jodi Tor Daak Shune Keu Na Ashe", "Ore Ore Majhi", "Majhe Majhe Tobo Dekha Pai".

Samiul Islam Polak, who emceed the programme, recited a number of Tagore poems interspersed with the songs that added to the flavour of the programme.

Anjan Bondopadhyay and Surajeet Das (from Kolkata, India) were on tabla and keys respectively, Asit Biswas was on esraj while Babu accompanied on flute.



The artistes perform at the event.

PHOTO: STAR

## Who inspired the "Game of Thrones" creator?

George RR Martin's greatest influence might surprise you - it's not Tolkien. He discussed his writing in an interview recorded by the BBC. "The first words of mine that were ever published were in Marvel Comics' Fantastic Four letters column," says George RR Martin. The author of the fantasy series "A Song of Ice and Fire", who has been called 'the American Tolkien', cites a surprising literary hero.

While Martin acknowledges "The Lord of The Rings" as an important source of inspiration, he says that the American comic book author and publisher Stan Lee helped define his writing more than Tolkien.

In a 2011 interview, the author explained how Lee revolutionised the genre. "Up till then the dominant comic book had been the DC comics which, at that time,

were always very circular. Superman or Batman would have an adventure, and at the end of the adventure they would wind up exactly where they were." In contrast, "the Marvel characters were constantly changing".

"As opposed to DC [Comics], where everybody got along and it was all very nice and all the heroes liked each other... Stan Lee introduced a whole concept of characterisation to comic books and conflict; maybe even a touch of grey in some of the characters," he observed.

Martin's fantasy novels, adapted for the HBO series "Game of Thrones", feature morally complex characters in stories that avoid a black-and-white struggle between good and evil. In his interview, the author describes encountering the Marvel character Wonder Man, who is planted among The Avengers to sabotage them. "But when the moment comes when he's supposed to betray them and destroy them,

he's come to like them so much by being a spy among them that he can't bring himself to do it. He sacrifices himself, and dies at the end of the issue."

Several of Martin's letters praising Stan Lee storylines were published in Marvel issues. In one letter, printed in a 1961 issue of Fantastic Four when Martin was 13, he asked: "In what other comic mag could you see things like a hero falling down a manhole, a heroine mistaking a toy inventor for a criminal, and the President of the USA leaving a conference that may determine the fate of the world to put his daughter to bed?"

They may not have featured the brutal deaths and graphic scenes of "Game of Thrones", but those 1960s comics proved formative. As Martin told the BBC -- "Maybe Stan Lee is the greatest literary influence on me, even more than Shakespeare or Tolkien."

Source: BBC



"Game of Thrones" is one of the most successful TV series of recent times.

### TRIBUTE

## Frankenstein's writer turns 217...

SHAHRIAR FEROZE

How many of you have attempted to play god?

More bluntly, create a monster that would eventually keep gnawing its creator: You.

None perhaps, but a lady born 217 years ago on this day, actually dare did. By her sheer imagination, gothic elements, an unorthodox scientific experiment, and ingredients of horror and hate, she would write a novel in epistolary form - that one day would exceed the prominence of its author herself.

Her name is Mary Shelley.

During the rainy summer of 1816, Mary Shelley, then aged 18, and her lover (and later husband) Percy Bysshe Shelley, visited Lord Byron at the Villa Diodati by Lake Geneva in Switzerland. Shivering cold weather prevented them from outdoor holiday activities that they had planned, so during the trip, the group retired indoors until daybreak. Sitting around a log fire at Byron's villa, the company amused themselves by reading German ghost stories and all of a sudden Byron proposed that they each write a ghost story. And one evening, the conversation turned to the nature of the principle of life. The idea to experiment with a dead body sprang out, and coupled with galvanism (the therapeutic use of direct electric current), Frankenstein's creation process was chalked out. It was after midnight before the writers retired, and unable to sleep, Mary became possessed by her imagination and dreamt about a scientist who created life and later would be horrified by what he had created. Weaving of one of the world's earliest horror-cum-science fictions had begun.



Her dreams were her prized possessions, as she once quoted - "My dreams were at once more fantastic and agreeable than my writings," and who knows perhaps it was at this point of time when she thought of writing my favourite lines of Frankenstein - "Nothing is more painful to the human mind than, after the feelings have been worked up by a quick succession of events, the dead calmness of inaction and certainty which follows and deprives the soul both of hope and fear."

However, it was never confirmed if Shelley was really inspired by the mad scientist who once inhabited the castle Frankenstein near Frankfurt in Germany. After having known the facts, I couldn't help asking myself 'had Byron not insisted on writing a ghost story then what would have Shelley written?' That will never be known.

You could ask 'Why only Frankenstein and why not other of her literary works should be remembered on her birth anniversary?' You have a point, but to that question, this writer dares say, had she only written Frankenstein and nothing at all, that would have sufficed to eternalise her aptitude as a writer.

I am only grateful that out of a single story she created such a powerful legacy of a monster, that later became the foundation of a plethora of horror and science fiction stories of the future.

Conceivably, the biggest lesson Shelley taught us through victor Frankenstein is: Unbridled passion can lead to danger, and even pursuit of knowledge is not an exception to this rule. She also showed the repercussions of playing god.

Happy birthday to Mary Shelley (August 30, 1797 - February 1, 1851).

The writer is Current Affairs Analyst and deputy editor for SLR page, The Daily Star.

## Shah Rukh appointed Interpol ambassador

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

He played the negative role on the screen with aplomb and one hopes he does the opposite with equal elan in real life. Superstar Shah Rukh Khan may have wowed you as the underworld don in his hit film "Don" but he is now the face of France-headquartered International Police's (Interpol) ambassador for a worldwide campaign against crime.

Said to be the first Indian to be made an ambassador for the global campaign, the actor is lending his voice to help spread the message that all of society benefits when citizens respect law and fight crime.

Interpol, the world's largest police body with 190-member countries, says that by using Shah Rukh's huge popularity and celebrity status, it hopes to mobilize public opinion across the world how organized crime syndicates are behind trafficking of goods, human beings, weapons, spurious medicines and drugs.

The catch-line of the campaign is "organised crime starts with money--don't let it be yours".

"It's a very special honour to be a part of Interpol's Turn Back Crime campaign as an ambassador," said Shah Rukh.

