

WHAT'S ON

Art Exhibition
Reality Versus Imagination and Illusion
Artist: Samiran Chowdhury
Venue: Gallery Cosmos
Date: August 30-Sep 11
Time: 11am-7pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: "Ode to Beauty" by Shama Shaolom
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 Exhibition
Threads of Testimony
Artist: Dilara Begum Jolly
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge
Date: August 16-Sep 4
Time: 11am-8pm



Ganga-Jamuna Theatre & Cultural Fest
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy



NEWS bytes

Jethro Tull bassist Glenn Cornick dies

Bassist Glenn Cornick, a founding member of British rock band Jethro Tull, has died aged 67. Cornick was the band's original bassist, playing from its inception in 1967 until he left three years later. He had been suffering congestive heart failure and died at his home in Hilo, Hawaii, on Friday. Jethro Tull frontman Ian Anderson paid tribute to his former band-mate. Writing on the Jethro Tull website, Anderson said Cornick's broad knowledge of music helped establish the arrangements of the band's early material. Cornick had a firm footing in the origins of Jethro Tull - as far back to the mid-1960s when the band was known as the John Evan Band. He played on the band's first three albums - "This Was", "Stand Up", and "Benefit" - as well as their biggest hit "Living in the Past". After leaving Jethro Tull, Cornick formed his own band, Wild Turkey, and was later a member of Paris with the American guitarist Bob Welch.



IT'S TRUE!

At a very early stage in her career, Reese Witherspoon had an audition for a role in "Cape Fear", where she was supposed to meet with Robert De Niro and Martin Scorsese. However, at the time, Witherspoon didn't really know who they were. On the plane, she was talking to the man next to her about her audition, and the man started to rave to her about De Niro and Scorsese. This made her so nervous that she completely blew the audition and the role eventually went to Juliette Lewis.



Remembering a luminary

Shaheed Altaf Mahmud Padak conferred



Guests with the award recipients.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent artist Qayyum Chowdhury and renowned musician Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul were conferred "Shaheed Altaf Mahmud Padak-2014" for their outstanding contributions to art and music, at a programme in memory of Shaheed Altaf Mahmud. It was held at the auditorium of Liberation War Museum (LWM) in Dhaka on August 30. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor handed over the awards to the recipients as chief guest. Sara Ara Mahmud, widow of Altaf Mahmud, presented the recipient duo with uttario while Altaf Mahmud's daughter Shawon Mahmud presented them with bouquets. Actor Faruk Ahmed paid tribute to Qayyum Chowdhury and Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul.

Shanta Shrabany read out a written statement on behalf of Sara Ara Mahmud. Asaduzzaman Noor, MP, shared many unknown stories of Altaf Mahmud with the audience. In his speech, Qayyum Chowdhury upheld the bold and

talented aspects of the legendary Altaf Mahmud. "That I am standing and speaking here is because of Altaf Mahmud sacrificing his life," said Qayyum Chowdhury. Shaheed Altaf Mahmud Foundation organised the programme, with Mafidul Haque, art critic and one of the trustees of LWM, in the chair. Theatre personality Shimul Yousuf delivered the welcome address while elocutionist and cultural activist Hasan Arif hosted the event. Among others, noted film director and Sammilito Sangskritik Jote president Nasiruddin Yousuff was present.

Paying tribute to Altaf Mahmud -- a singer, cultural activist and martyred freedom fighter-- speakers at the programme said he was a composer as well as freedom fighter, but the nation is yet to document his heroism. Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul called for naming a prestigious auditorium after Altaf Mahmud in his speech. "This is the best award I have ever received in my life. We will all die someday, many things will change

with time but two songs -- the national anthem and 'Amar Bhai-er Rokte Rangano' will remain unchanged," said Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul. Shaheed Altaf Mahmud is widely known for his composition of the song "Amar Bhai-er Rokte Rangano Ekushey February", written by Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury, which has become the unofficial anthem of International Mother Language Day (February 21). His home served as a hiding place for arms caches and he provided food and money to freedom fighters during the Liberation War. During a combat operation (in August 1971) in Dhaka by the Pakistan army, Mahmud was arrested along with his brothers-in-law and a friend. He was tortured and believed to have been killed in September of the year.

Altaf Mahmud is among our illustrious Martyred Intellectuals. A talented painter as well as composer, he wrote and composed several patriotic songs which were played by Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra during the Liberation War. "We know how the people of Bangladesh are passionate about literature," Shirshendu began, "When I and Sunil (Sunil Gangopadhyay) used to talk about the future of Bangla language in West Bengal worriedly, we took a sigh of relief thinking that Bangladesh would keep alive this language, if it faced any crisis of existence."

"We see signboards written in Bangla in different shops in USA. Bangla has now become a prestigious language due to Bangladesh," he said, adding, "I was born in Bangladesh and was compelled to leave the country in my childhood due to the political division of the Indian subcontinent, which was very painful for me."

Shirshendu captivates fans in Chittagong

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

Through his spell with words, Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay, one of the most popular writers of Bangladesh and West Bengal, India, captivated his readers and fans who gathered at a bookshop in Chittagong city on Saturday evening, to listen to their favourite writer.

Baatighar, a mega bookshop located at city's Jamal Khan Road, organised the programme titled "Amar Jibon Amar Rochona: Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay" to facilitate an interaction between the writer and his readers.

Literature aficionados in the port city on the occasion milled around the bookshop which was jam-packed by 7pm. Many people had to remain outside and content themselves to listen to the writer's speech relayed to them on a screen through a multimedia projector.

have any injury at all," said the writer. Shirshendu said he started serious writing from 1958. "I started to send stories to Desh Patrika but frustratingly, my first two stories were not published. When I sent the third one, I decided to quit writing if it was rejected," he said, "But it was published at last."

Referring to his early novel "Ghunpoka", Shirshendu said when the novel was published, it failed to attract readers. Even the critics were not interested to comment on it he said. "I wanted the novel to be talked about. Be it praise or criticism, I just wanted it to be talked about; it was frustrating," he said, adding, "Now, after 40-50 years of its first publication, new editions of this novel are being published every year. I think I could not communicate with the readers at that time; present day readers can understand its theme and so the novel has gained popularity after 40 years," he said.



A packed audience in rapt attention.

PHOTO: STAR

"The opposite happened with the novel 'Durbin', said the writer. "I thought the novel would not be able to attract readers because of its unconventional form, but it gained popularity," he said, adding, "I always write from my heart and never write for popularity or money; all those things came to me slowly, and I am grateful to my readers for that."

Shirshendu also responded to questions from his readers, in his typical witty style. In reply to a question from the audience on why he did not write too many tragic novels, the writer said the Bangalis love to cry, adding, "Although it is easy to gain popularity with tragedies, I prefer happy endings in my novels. I don't want people crying, as they face enough crises in their personal lives."

Shirshendu said he had shared a close friendship with late Humayun Ahmed. "We had a relationship of mutual love and respect," he said.



SUPER CHEF in RAJSHAHI

OSAMA RAHMAN

With 12 of the 24-participant list from Sylhet, Khulna and Barisal selected for the finals, it is Rajshahi's turn now. With nearly 150 having registered for this round, the land famous for its mangoes and lychees may just land another achievement-- the country's first ever Super Chef.

The judges for the Rajshahi round will be Shawkat Osman, noted TV personality and food

critic, and Afroza Banu, a renowned actor and culinary expert, along with Minara Sharmin, a Food and Nutrition teacher of Haji Jamiruddin Shafina Mohila College; Mahmuda Begum, a Political Science teacher of Borendro College; Nusrat Jahan Rumi, catering teacher of Jatiyo Mohila Sangstha; and Nasima Khatun, lecturer of Islamic History of Rajshahi City College.

As with the previous rounds, the

Rajshahi round will also see the selection of four of the best candidates, selected after grueling rounds of MCQ tests, written tests, food tests and of course by being given certain tasks. Judges will mark the participants on their knowledge, preparation, food presentation and the Super Chef quality.

This week, Rajshahi is expected to yield four excellent candidates. This week's segment will be hosted by Naziba and Taaha. The show airs at 9pm on ntv.

Hundreds of thousands enjoy boat race on Chitra

DANIEL SUGIT BOSE, Narail

As many as two lakh people enthusiastically watched a traditional boat race on the River Chitra under Narail municipality, on Saturday.

Organised by Sultan Foundation supported by Bangladesh Rowing Federation and sponsored by Banglalink, some 25 boats participated in the race that began from the Narail



PHOTO: STAR

Ferry Ghat and ended at Sultan Setu area, covering a distance of about 4 kms.

The boat race was divided into separate categories for men and women. The competition was inaugurated by Md Abdul Jalil, DC, Khulna as chief guest. Dr. Shafiq Ahmed Siddik, former professor of Management Department in Dhaka University also attended the programme as special guest. The event was

presided over by Abdul Gaffer Khan, DC, Narail.

An added attraction was a performance on a boat of traditional jari, sari and bhatiali songs. A fair was also held on the river banks.

Asiqur Rahman Miku, member secretary of Sultan Foundation said that plans are underway to hold a national-level boat race, marking Sultan's birth anniversary next year.

WATCH THE NEXT EPISODE OF
RUPCHANDA-STAR LIFESTYLE
SUPERCHEF 2014,
AT 9 PM TONIGHT ONLY ON NTV

CATCH THE SHOW'S REVIEW ON STAR LIFESTYLE, PUBLISHED ON TUESDAY.

STAY TUNED!