

WHAT'S ON

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

Nazrul Death
Anniversary Programme
Organiser: Bangladesh Nazrul
Sangeet Sangstha
Venue: Music & Dance Centre
auditorium, Shilpakala Academy

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

NEWSbytes

Survivor singer Jimi Jamison dies



Jimi Jamison, the lead singer for US rock band Survivor, who sang the theme tune for hit TV series Baywatch, has died aged 63. Jamison, who joined the band in 1983, was described by the band as "our brother". The band said on their Facebook page: "The entire Survivor family is very shocked and saddened. Our thoughts, love and prayers go out to his family and friends." The band are best known for their 1982 hit The Eye of the Tiger which pre-dated Jamison joining the group.

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!



Shakira was banned from singing in the school choir, because her music teacher thought she was utterly talentless and sounded 'like a goat' whenever she sang. As a child Shakira would often dance and sing for her family, her classmates and her teachers but she got kicked out from the school choir because her vibrato was apparently too strong. Fortunately, the young Shakira didn't give up on her dream and love for performing and became one of the greatest names in pop music.

FOR THE LOVE OF FILM

A filmmaker's journey with the camera

SAURAV DEY

Fakhrul Arefin Khan is an independent filmmaker. He first released his documentary Al-Badar in 2007, which traces the course of war crimes committed by the local collaborators of the Pakistan army during the Liberation War.

The documentary has been screened in different districts in 2009 and received a huge response for its boldness and credibility. It also won the maker an award in 2011. And for its credibility, the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) used it as an authentic document for investigation.

His latest documentary, "The Speech" sheds light on the historic speech of March 7. Ekattur TV recently aired the film, which involves a lot of research. "I tried to put an end to the debate, surrounding the announcement of our independence. Through my work, I tried to explain how that speech carried the announcement of independence. After March 7, 1971 a massive change came in the administration. I believe that the announcement of independence was a follow-up of the March 7 speech," said the filmmaker.

Fakhrul came in touch with films while he was a student in the History Department of Jahangirnagar University in the late 1990s. "I have great interest in photography and I have a soft corner for the history of our Liberation War. I used to watch a lot of films but did not



have any intention of stepping into filmmaking," he said.

"On October 25, 2007, when Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid said there were no Razakars in Bangladesh, I decided that I would answer this through documenting actual history. Then my mother gave me some money to buy a camera and I started shooting my first documentary "Al Badar" with that money. I received threats from different quarters for making the film but did not stop," Fakhrul said while telling this writer about his journey with the camera.

He has not yet gone into making commercial films. He mostly makes research-based docu-fictions. His third documentary "Haq-er Ghar" is based on the appalling eviction of the true followers of Fakir Lalon from his shrine in Kushtia. "Haq-er Ghar" (Home of Truth) will release soon, marking the death anniversary of Lalon on October 17.

Asked how he finances his projects, Fakhrul said, "My family gives me a lot of support and I finance my work from my salary and family income. My father and mother are private service holders, my wife is a banker and I get a lot of support from them. I also take bank loans and use my surplus income for making films. I am currently working at an international development agency. It is my profession."

Fakhrul is now making his first full-length feature. "I have finished shooting my first fiction "Aim in Life" which is currently under post-production. The movie is inspired by a story of my life. It will release soon in November under the banner of Monon Cholocchitro," he said.

"Now I am primarily focusing on fiction films but if I get a good script I will make a documentary. My next project is "Muktijoddhar Laash" which is also a fiction. I have plans to make a documentary on Tajuddin Ahmad, but I am not sure whether I will be able to make it," he concluded.

"Art: The right communication"... Urmi

FAYZA HAQ

At the Dhaka Art Centre, Fahmida Urmi Hossain is holding her 6th solo exhibit from August 30-September 8 that effectively brings together paintings and video art. The exhibition reflects the artist's social concerns such as the dangers of child marriage and the importance of one's own language. Urmi says that real art is connecting different aspects of art.

Which period of Art do you admire the most?

Urmi: I like Expressionism. I believe it is the best way to communicate. The artist relates himself/ herself and his or her environment -- physical, psychological and emotional. The output is the consequence of all the three. I don't care much for Surrealism, or Dadaism. It was important the protest of what the artists felt was happening around them.

Whatever suits the time and age is reflected on canvas or installations. What the artist presents does not necessarily have

to tell a big story like Pablo Picasso's "Guernica". Artists merely wish to communicate with others. The socio-political and economic aspects have always played a big role in it.

How has art evolved?

Urmi: It began from the cave paintings in the West; in France, through the delineations of cave art, people tried to capture the animals. They felt that if they could subjugate the pictures by throwing spears and arrows at them, in time, they would be able to successful in their hunting of these animals. Thus the weapons were symbolic. In time, what developed in the 20th century was Cubism, Surrealism and to explore abstraction in both thought and imagery, with dominant artists of the day adopting highly experimental approaches to the work that they produced. George Braque, Pablo Picasso and Paul Klee excelled in these genres. The Pop Art movement in the 50s and 60s showed that there were no boundaries. It proved a suitable process to experiment with colours and forms.



"Personage of Egyptian Vision" opens at AFD



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Personage of Egyptian Vision", a painting exhibition by Egyptian artist Dr. Walid Jahin opened yesterday at the La Galerie of Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD).

Renowned Egyptian artist Dr. Walid Jahin is displaying his artworks for the first time in Bangladesh, through the exhibit. He is a professor at the Alexandria University of Egypt from the Dept. of Fine Arts. As Dr. Walid puts it, his artistic transcendence started 15 years back deriving inspiration from the great Egyptian art, whose influences evolved into modernism and postmodern forms. He is known for bridging the gap between traditional Egyptian art forms and modern art forms. Best known for his modern art techniques, he has received many prestigious awards since 1996.

Dorpon Art Foundation has brought Dr. Walid Jahin to Bangladesh for the exhibition, and an artistic workshop to be held in Alliance Française de Dhaka. The exhibition will continue till September 13.

Nrityanchal to stage "Rai Krishna Padabali" today



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nrityanchal's popular dance-drama "Rai Krishna Padabali" will be staged today at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, as part of the ongoing Ganga-Jamuna theatre and cultural festival. Written by poet Sheikh Hafizur Rahman, it is based on the eternal love story of Radha and Krishna.

The dance drama has been directed by noted choreographer of Kolkata, Sukalyan Bhattacharya. Celebrated dancers -- Shamim Ara Nipa and Shibli Mohammad play the lead roles in the production, accompanied by some 40 artistes of Nrityanchal.

Sahitya Adda dedicated to Chandan

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A literary gathering of poets and writers was held at a city hotel recently. Banglanews24.com, an online news portal, organised the "Sahitya Adda" that was dedicated to journalist and rhymester Obaidul Gani Chandan who passed away recently.

Chandan had been working as feature editor at the Daily Manabkanta, published from Dhaka.

Consultant editor of Banglanews, poet Jewel Mazhar, actress Joyatika Jyoti and painter Kheya Mezbah were present at the adda, among others.

Poets Shamsul Fayeze, Yeazdani Koraishi Kajol, Prof Nazrul Hayat, Farid Ahmed Dulal, Salehin Shipra, Ehsan Habib and journalists Shamsul Alam Khan and Rawshan Jhunu took part in the session.

The poets and writers said that in the past writers had to fight for a platform but now writers have scope to express themselves through the print and electronic media.

The lifestyle of diverse communities and the folklore and folk music of Mymensingh have given the region prominence, said the speakers adding that organising such programmes will bring literary activists under the same umbrella in future.

They also remembered the contributions of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, Abul Mansur Ahmad, Abul Kalam Shamsuddin, Humayun Ahmed and Nirmalendu Goom in the field of arts and literature, who hailed from Mymensingh region.



Bikkhon's 1590th literary session

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Bikkhon, a study circle of literary organisation Mymensingh Sahitya Sangsad held its 1590th session at its premises on the banks of Brahmaputra River in the town recently.

The session included poetry recitation and a discussion.

Bikkhon has organised a regular weekly programme since 1983 -- a record in the literary arena in the region.

Among the poets who participated in recitations were Swadhin Chowdhury, Sharat Selim, Shahid Amin Rumi, Gonesh Chandra Saha, Asad, M Bahadur, Saidul Arif Khokon, Ferdous Ara Dalia and Nihar Likhon.

A discussion titled "Archeological Heritage: Our Responsibility" was also held.

Regional director of Department of Archeology Dr. Md. Ataur Rahman; president of Bangladesh Tourism Foundation Muklesur Rahman; director of Archeological Study Circle, ULAB Prof. Dr. Shanaz Hosne Jahan, advocate Shabbir Ahmed Liton and Swapon Dhar took part in the discussion.

Deputy keeper of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala (art gallery) Dr. Bijoy Krishna Banik and poet Mosharraf Karim were present, among others.

Secretary of Mymensingh Sahitya Sangsad poet Yeazdani Quraishi presided over the event.

The speakers said, time moves on but cultural heritage and tradition are rich remnants of yesteryears.

Through proper preservation of archeological sites in Mymensingh region, archeological tourism could flourish in the region, they added.

Poet Sajal Quraishi conducted the programme.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The three-day International Animation Cartoon fest, Sylhet ended in Sylhet Shilpakala Academy auditorium on Saturday. About 2,000 children, spread across 19 schools, joined the day-long events every day.

The children also enjoyed games and frolicked with popular characters like Mickey Mouse, Mina, Raja, Mithu and Muppets.

Seventy three animation cartoons from 18 countries were on display at the fest, organised by the Children Communication Bangladesh (CCB). The event was free for children below 18 years.

Sylhet City mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury on August 28 formally inaugurated the event organised by the Ministry of information. Ifad group was the sponsor.

The fest will also be held in the other divisional cities before the 3rd international animation cartoon fest scheduled to be held in the capital. Winners from the divisions would join up at that stage.

The participating children were given posters, stickers, festoons, T-shirts, caps etc. while participating schools were given souvenir crests and certificates at the concluding function.

Tanvir Ahmed, Managing director, Ifad group distributed certificates and crests among the winners and institutions at the concluding function. CCB's executive director Saima Akhtar Rini and festival Director Robiul Islam Rony addressed the gathering.



Visitors drawn to the world of cartoons.

PHOTO: STAR