

WHAT'S ON


Solo Classical Recital
Artist: Pandit Tushar Dutta
Organiser: IGCC
Venue: IGCC Gulshan-1
Date: Sep 13
Time: 6:30pm




Theatre
Play: Rupoboti
Troupe: Subachan Natya Sangsad
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall
Date: Sep 13
Time: 7pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Murtaja Baseer
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara
Date: Sep 13-25
Time: 11am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Montage
Artist: Samarjit Roy Chowdhury
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi
Date: Sep 6-22
Time: 12-8pm



Theatre Festival
Organiser: BotTala
Venue: Natmandal, Dhaka University
Date: Sep 10-13
Time: 7:15pm



NEWS bytes

Quinto cast in US version of "The Slap"

Star Trek actor Zachary Quinto has been cast in the US TV version of "The Slap", Christos Tsiolkas's best-selling novel. Brian Cox, Peter Sarsgaard and Mary-Louise Parker will also appear in the NBC network's eight-episode miniseries. Published in 2008, "The Slap" charts the ramifications of a Melbourne barbecue where one of the guests hits a three-year-old child who is not his own.

The Booker-longlisted novel previously spawned a 2011 Australian mini-series. Narrated by eight characters, the book's exploration



of sex, racism and domestic violence saw one critic describe it as "a satanic version of Neighbours". Quinto - best known for his Mr Spock role in the recent Star Trek films - will play Harry, a mechanic and car dealer who does out the fateful slap that sets the story in motion. Lisa Cholodenko, Oscar-nominated director of "The Kids Are All Right", will direct the series, the action of which will take place in Brooklyn.

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!

Tupac Shakur, considered one of the greatest rap musicians of all time, was an actor in his early days. He joined a theatre troupe at the age of 12, and after his family relocated, studied acting, poetry, jazz and ballet at the Baltimore School of Arts. Despite dying in a shooting at age 25, he is one of the best-selling music artistes in the world, having sold over 75 million albums worldwide as of 2010. MTV ranked him at number two on their list of "The Greatest MCs of All Time" and Rolling Stone magazine named him the 86th "Greatest Artist of All Time". His double disc album "All Eyez on Me" is one of the best selling hip hop albums of all time.



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Pandit Tushar Dutta's pristine performance at Arts Precinct

ALOKE KUMAR SEN and ZAHANGIR ALOM

The Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct turned into a hearty congregation of classical music connoisseurs on Thursday evening, as Pandit Tushar Dutta enthralled a discerning audience. Bengal Foundation and The Daily Star, in association with Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Dhaka organised the recital as part of the Indian government's cultural exchange activity.

Editor and publisher of The Daily Star, Mahfuz Anam urged all to observe a one-minute silence in memory of Legendary Nazrul artiste and exponent Feroza Begum. In his welcome address, he delineated the joint efforts of The Daily Star and Bengal Foundation in making the Arts Precinct and The Daily Star centre a hub of arts and culture, hosting such programmes on a regular basis. Nazrul exponent and Editor of Star Arts and Entertainment, Sadya Afreen Mallick introduced the featured artiste with the audience. She also directed the entire event.

Tushar Dutta, originally from Natore, Bangladesh, achieved the highest grade (Pandit) from All India Radio, India in 2013. He is amongst the most celebrated and popular classical vocalist of Kolkata, India. As a renowned scholar of ITC-Sangeet Research Academy (SRA), India, he is immensely talented and was trained under some of the greatest Gurus of ITC-SRA.

"I am fascinated and very happy to be here at The Daily Star Centre that really has a musical ambience. I am dedicating my performance to the legendary Nazrul Sangeet

artiste and exponent Feroza Begum," said Pandit Tushar Dutta.

Speedy yet clear aakar taan, fabulous murki, exquisite pukar and perfect pitch quality, strong command over all aspects of laya, rhythm and shruti, evoking the desired mood and emotions -- have created the hallmark of Pandit Tushar Dutta's music. The maestro showcased all the aspects of offerings in his entire performance.

Blending the traditional gayaki of two prominent gharanas -- Agra (prominent for upholding exquisite and pure melody) and Kirana (famous for styling exclusive bistar of any raga) -- coupled with his love for styling special musical phraseology -- soothed the audience's hearts at the soiree. The delivery of his pukar was spread across the octaves, showing great command over voice.

The Pandit set off his musical voyage with Shudh Kalyan, a prayer raga that follows the chalan of raga Bhupali in ascending and raga Yaman in descending. It is a spiritual rendition of classical music. An eternal appeal of not reaching God was expressed in his performance. His bandish presentations, distinctive styling of melodic game and a devotional entreaty were outstanding. Tushar Dutta embellished the special features, especially the pukar, of Raga Shudh Kalyan.

His presentation of vilambit bandish "Ali Mohe Manawan Aye" (on vilambit ektaal) and a famous traditional bandish "Bajo Rey Bajo Mandelara" (teentaal) generated a musical mahol that seemingly engaged the music lovers. Each and every movement of the raga

evoked devotional rapture.

His offering of a spring-time sweet raga Kaunshik Dhvani seemed intoxicating. The excerpts of the bandish "Aj Hoon Na Aye Balamaauwa", set on madhyalaya teentaal, had a feminine emotive plea and the way Tushar Dutta performed was very engaging. According to vaishnava philosophy, exclusively popularised by Sri Chaitanya Dev, we all represent the earthy soul (Radha) and soulfully serenade to unite with the eternal soul (Krishna). His presentation that he portrayed through the raga captured that essence beautifully.

Later, the artiste performed a tarana set on raga Bageshree on drut teentaal. Tushar, in his rendition of the raga, displayed the ecstatic ups and down of melody.

Other aspects of his performance traced akar taan, meend, bolbut and mellifluous gamak, weaving a garland with an eight-guna taan, touching notes on all three octaves.

Pandit Tushar Dutta next performed Nazrul Sangeet "Amar Aponar Cheye Apon Je Jon" and "Porodeshi Megh". He also performed one of his album (Birohini Chand) songs "Rimjhim Boroshate Keno Ele Na". Tushar's childhood friend Ustad Rshid Khan composed the raga-based classic (Desh Malhar). Pandit Tushar Dutta wrapped up the soiree with a Meera bhajan "Jo Tum Todo Piya" on kaharba taal.

Goutam Sarker on tabla, Bizon Chandra Mistry on harmonium and Dr. Jagadananda Roy and Alope Kumar Sen on tanpura accompanied the maestro's musical flight.

Noted folk singer in dire straits

Kangalini Sufia living in acute financial crisis

RASHAD AHAMAD, Savar

One of Kangalini Sufia's most famous songs, "Poraner Bandhob Re, Buri Hoilam Tor Karone..." is ironically coming true in the artiste's life, who is in a very difficult situation -- financially, socially and physically.

Recently, Sufia went to the Savar Municipality seeking financial help for her treatment, where the municipality mayor allotted only Tk 1,000 for her. She said that she has been suffering from her sore in neck and throat and needs immediate treatment.

She also said locals blocked the path to her house, on a small piece of land in Bhatpara in Savar, on the outskirts of the capital. They demanded Tk. 200,000 to reopen it.

Sufia said she once traveled the world to perform and earned a lot of money, but in recent times, she has not been called to perform anywhere.

Kangalini Sufia is a regular artiste of Bangladesh Betar and BTV, and has performed on various private TV channels. Apart from Bangladesh, she has performed in the UK, South Korea, Qatar, Italy, Hong Kong, US, Thailand, China and India. She usually performs with a five-member troupe that includes Baul Jahangir, Baul Mander Fakir, Pushpo (Sufia's sister), Chumki Kangalini



(Sufia's granddaughter) and Bilkis Banu.

"For the last two years, I have had no calls to perform; I do not know why. May be it's because I am old now," she told The Daily Star. "These performances are our livelihood. Of the seven members in my family, four are singers. And as a result, I am going through acute financial crisis. I receive Tk 5,000 per month from the Prime Minister's fund. That's my only source of money."

She informed that a group of local land grabbers have blocked the main entrance of her house and demanded Taka 200000 for

the path. "As I could not manage the money, they have kept it blocked. I now have to pass through my neighbour's house," she said.

The artiste, now 55, was born at Ramdia village of greater Faridpur (currently in the Rajbari district). As a young girl, she stood apart from her peers, as she wanted to sing constantly. At the age of 14 or 15, she began singing at village functions and was received with resounding applause.

Three years after the Liberation War, she converted to Islam and took on the name Sufia Khatun.

Sufia made a name for herself with her unique style on stage, though she initially emulated the well-known Ustad Halim Boyati and Aynal Boyati of Faridpur.

Eminent artist Mustafa Monwar, christened her "Kangalini Sufia" and she later attained fame with this name across the country.

Sufia has some volumes of songs to her credit, the most popular ones being "Narir kachhe keu jaiyo na", "Bondhu Bichched", "Poran-er bandhob re" and "Konba pothey Nitaigonje jai". She has also done playback for three films: "Dorodi Shatru", "Agun" and "Raj Shinghashon".

Sufia sought help for her simple living, saying "If the artiste is not cared for, no one will want to be an artiste."

Rajanikanta Sen

Patriotism and devotion unbound

Poet, lyricist and singer Rajanikanta Sen (1865-1910), is considered one of the Pancha-kobi, an elite league of the five major poets-songwriters of the Bangla Language. Today marks his 104th death anniversary.

Born in the village of Bhangabari in Pabna (now in Bangladesh), Rajanikanta was the author of "Pathachintamani," a book of Kirtan songs, and "Abhay Bihar," a book of lyrical poems. His father Guruprasad Sen served as a sub-judge in many parts of Bengal. He was tutored by his father in music from early childhood. After obtaining his BA and BL (1891) degrees from Calcutta City College, he began to practice law in Rajshahi.

Rajanikanta demonstrated his poetic power at the early age of 15 by composing songs dedicated to the goddess Kali. He used to sing his compositions at the house of Akshay Kumar Maitreya. The monthly Utsaha used to publish his writings. Devotion and patriotism formed the primary themes of his poems and songs, although he also composed love songs and satirical verses. One of his songs composed during the Swadeshi movement, "Mayer Deya Mota Kapor Matha-e Tuley Nerey Bhai", became an overnight sensation.

Rajanikanta wrote several books: "Bani" (1902), "Kalyani" (1905), "Sadhabhaskum" (1913) and "Sheshdan" (1916). "Bani" and "Kalyani" are collections of his songs. He became well known as "Kantakobi."

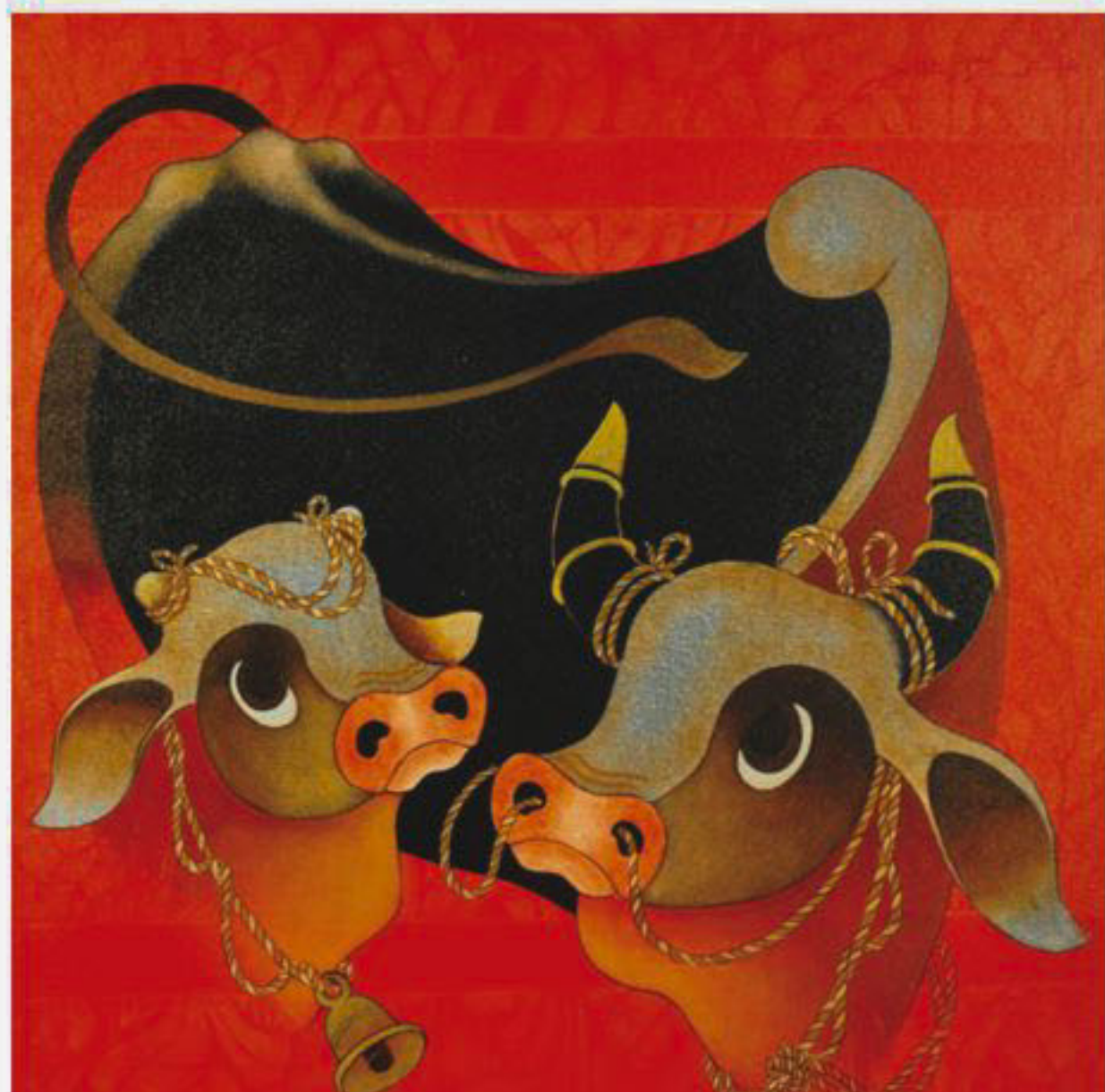
Though Rajanikanta was influenced by Rabindranath Tagore, his songs have some unique characteristics. Most of them are inspired by his devotion. In addition, his love for his country forms another important theme of his songs.

The songs of Rajanikanta were inspired by the tunes and themes of Kirtan, Baul, Ramprasadi, Panchali. "Mishra Raga" (mixed raga) is predominant in Rajanikanta's compositions.



"Colours of Friendship" opens at DAC

Weeklong art exhibit by Indian artists



A CORRESPONDENT

"Colours of Friendship", an exhibition of paintings by contemporary Indian artists, began in the capital's Dhaka Art Center (DAC) yesterday. Organised by Visual Impact, the exhibition continues till September 18.

The exhibition brings together artists from different parts of India, whose works vary from figurative to abstract, line drawings to landscapes and so on. The painters have also used a wide variety of media -- acrylic and oil on canvas and acrylic sheet, mixed media on paper and canvas, watercolour, conti, pen and ink on paper. There are some 70 pieces on display.

The participating artists are all firmly established and known for their own individual style. Stalwarts like Jogen Chowdhury, Suhas Roy, Thota Vaikuntam, Lalu Prasad Shaw, Prakash Karmakar, Samir Aich, Subrata Gangopadhyay, Wasim Kapoor, Jayashree Chakravarty, Aditya Basak, Atin Basak, Laxman Aelay, Sanjay Bhattacharya, Laxman Aelay, Sachin Jaltare, Babu Xavier and Kazi Anirban are part of the show.

Organisers Visual Impact deals primarily in Indian contemporary art, and aims to bring good art closer to the art enthusiasts by offering a mix of masterpieces and rare collections of India's eminent artists, as well as contribution from new generation of contemporary artists. They have organised successful art shows in various cities of India for the last three years.

Tagore-Nazrul celebrations in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Artistes of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi performed at a cultural show titled 'Tagore-Nazrul celebrations-2014' at Mymensingh Press Club auditorium Wednesday.

The press club organised the programme as its annual cultural event.

Swapon Sarker, Molina Devnath, Joyanti Biswas Jolly, Poly Talukder, Shuvra Joarder and Mondira Sannayal Pritha rendered popular songs of the bards.

The artistes were assisted by Jishutosh Talukder on tabla and Razib Banik on Mandira.

A discussion was also held marking the



PHOTO: STAR

celebration. Prof. Dr. Mohit UI Alam, vice-chancellor of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKNIU) was the chief guest. Prof. Dr. Manjural Alam of Bangladesh Agricultural University; Prof. Atiqur

addressed the discussion among others, with deputy commissioner of Mymensingh Mustakim Billah Faruqi in the chair.

The speakers were of the view that Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam, both greatly enriched Bengali Literature through their huge volumes.

"We find humanity, love, affection and desire of the people belonging to all sections in their writings, and at the same time, we also find revolt against the evil elements that lash oppression and repression on the common people," said the speakers.

The writings of both the bards also inspired us when we faced different national crises, the speakers added.



Drama serial "Jolforing er Gaan" airs tonight on SATV at 8pm. Written and directed by Anjan Aich, the serial casts Subarna Mustafa, Tisha, Nisho, Farzana Chobi and Faruq Ahmed, among others.