

WHAT'S ON

Theatre Festival

Title: BotTala Rongomela

Organiser: BotTala

Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy

Date: Oct 24-31

Time: 6:30pm



Photography Exhibition

Theme: Inspiration

Organiser: Drik

Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi

Date: Oct 16-22

Time: 3pm-8pm

Spanish Week 2014

Photography Competition and Exhibition

Theme: Inspiration

Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Known Unknown

Artist: Farzana Ahmed Urmi

Venue: Dhaka Art Center

Date: Oct 16-23

Time: 3pm-8pm



Theatre

Play: "Samonto Sathi"

Troupe: Niravaran Theatre, Singair

Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy

Date: Oct 19

Time: 7pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: The Macabre World

Artist: Subrata Das

Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi

Date: Oct 12-23

Time: 9:30am-8pm

THE MACABRE WORLD

Subrata Das

NEWS bytes

Bob the Builder gets a makeover

After 16 years, children's animation series "Bob The Builder" is having a makeover with a new look and voice.

Actor Lee Ingleby takes over from Neil Morrissey, who played the handyman from its launch in 1998. Also joining the series when it airs next year will be Downton Abbey's Joanne Froggatt, who'll play Bob's business partner Wendy. Blake Harrison voices the digger Scoop.

Viewers will see a big difference on screen as the characters will be computer-generated for the new series rather than created using stop-motion animation.

Bob also has a new home in the busy town of Spring City, and will use a computer for his building designs, but he'll still be seen working at his yard in the village of Fixham.

Source: BBC



IT'S TRUE!

Jennifer Love Hewitt, known widely as an actress-producer and TV director, had her debut music album "Love Songs" (1992) launched at the age of 12, funded by Japanese music and video game company Meldac. The album was released exclusively in Japan, where Hewitt



became a pop star. She signed a deal with Atlantic record, but after her two albums with the label "Let's go Bang" and "Jennifer Love Hewitt" failed to make the charts, she did not return to the music industry for three years. She has recorded soundtracks for her movies and TV shows since then, and released a fourth album in 2002, but has been inactive in music since 2004.

TV WATCH



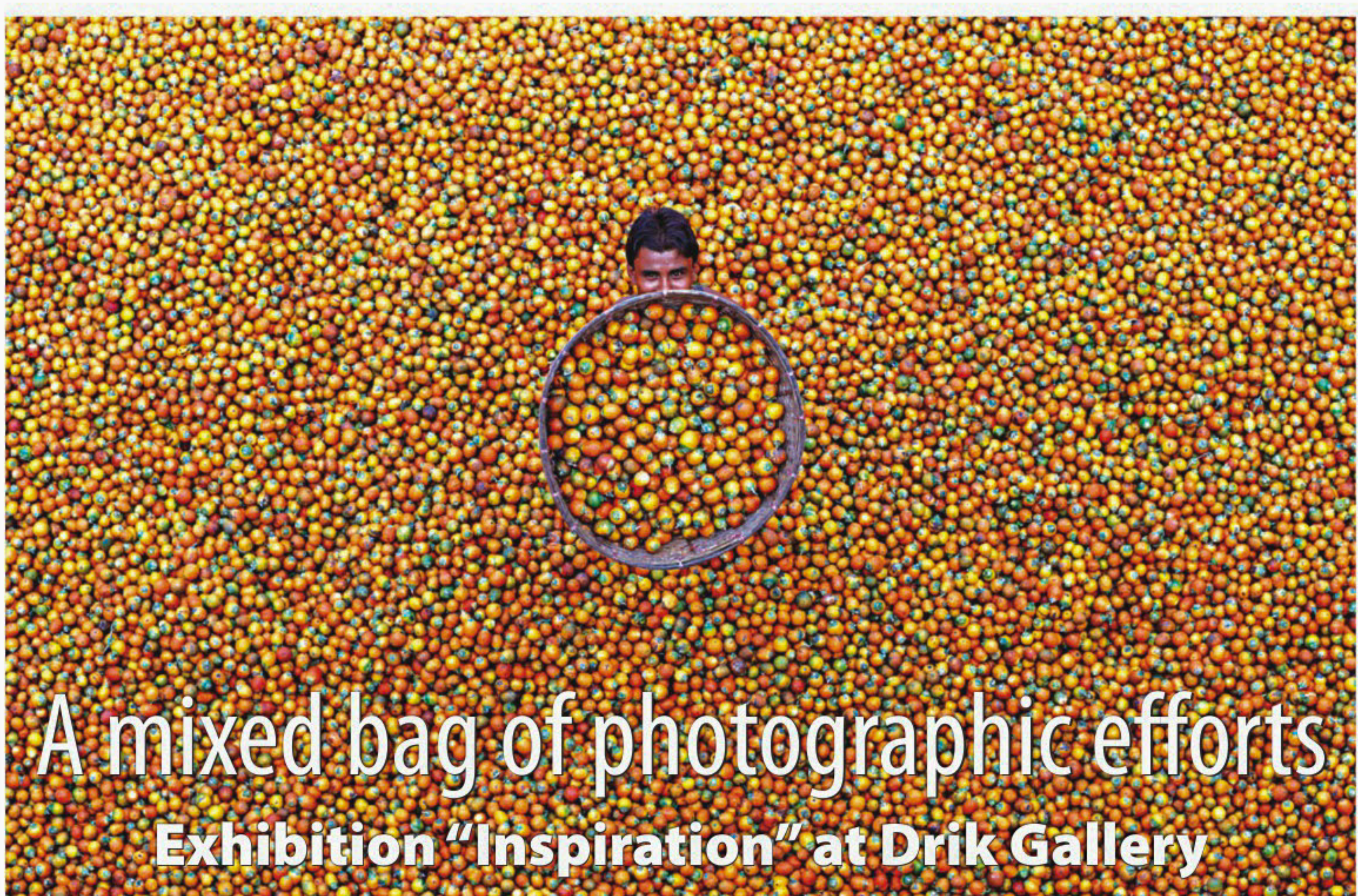
Mega-serial "Off-Screen" begins today

A CORRESPONDENT

A new mega-serial by Muhammad Mostafa Kamal Raj, titled "Off-Screen", begins tonight on Desh TV. The serial will air Sundays through Thursdays at 9:45pm. Written by Daud Hossain Rony, it has Sujan Mahmud as executive producer.

"Off-Screen" is about a group of simpletons who have immense interest in the showbiz. They keep looking for a shortcut to become on-screen stars, but remain off-screen, beyond the fandom and glitz of the business.

The serial casts Chanchal Chowdhury, Sajju Khadem, Nowrin Khan Jenny, Dr. Ejaz, Maznun Mizan, Sohel Khan, Tania Brishti, Shadhin Khosru and Tasnuva Tisha, among many others.



FAHMIM FERDOUS

Photography has probably been the form of art that has seen the steepest rise in practice in the last few years in Bangladesh, and while volume of work generated has remained a massive pile compared to quality work, there are numerous good photographers who have not yet had great exposure. Open-call exhibitions are great platforms for such photographers, to get their works exhibited. And one such exhibition, currently on at the Drik Gallery, is testament of the popularity of photography, if not anything else.

As a part of Spanish Week 2014, the Embassy of Spain, in cooperation with Drik, is organising the weeklong exhibition, on the theme "Inspiration". A hefty number of 4,000 submissions were dropped in, from which a jury panel of Drik's photographers and Spanish Embassy representatives selected 57 photos.

The inauguration ceremony, on October 16, saw Ashis Das take the first prize for a heart-melting portrait of two elderly women, titled "Friendship Forever". The second prize was won by Kumar Bishwajit for "The Light Within" – of underprivileged children holding battery-operating torches at their books, study-



Photos by Yousuf Tushar (top) and Sazzid Ahmed.

ing in a room with no electricity. The third prize was awarded to a photo titled "Turtles can fly" -- a group of boys playing football on a muddy field.

The exhibition presents a wide variety of photos, in terms of approach, technique and style. Children in rural settings are possibly the most recurring subject at the exhibition, although different photographers have looked at it differently. The photos also show a range of styles – from wide-angle landscapes to close-crop portraits, silhouettes, low-light work and motion blur. NH Shaikhul Islam has a black-and-white portrait of an elderly man with a

cataract in one eye; the contrast and crop of the photo makes it a striking work. Kumar Bishwajit's silhouette of a girl studying, backlit with sun's rays from a window is also praiseworthy, as is SM Imran Hassan's fine-art like black-and-white profile of a woman in a burqa, against a pure black background. Md. Shahnawaz Khan's photo of a brick kiln worker picking up bricks on his head, a storm-cloud of dust around, meanwhile, is more in the documentary genre. Belal Hossain Rana's photo of children climbing a ladder on a wall has appreciable use of negative space, while Sazzid Ahmed's photo of a girl in a hijab playing being sprayed with colours (possibly at a Dole Purnima festival) has bursting colours all over. Yousuf Tushar's photo of a kid holding up a basket full of picked betel nuts is another that catches the eye.

While photography, from shot-making to post-processing, can be very technical, the beauty of it is that it a photographer can take good photos just based on intuition, practice and just the eye for a good photo. Exhibitions like these can help photographers get the exposure they require, and also encourage and inspire photographers to strive for the better.

The exhibition remains open till October 22 from 3-8pm every day.

28TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF MANORAMA BASU MASIMA

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

The 28th death anniversary of Manorama Basu Masima, legendary political, human and women's rights activist of the southern region, was observed on Thursday in Barisal with solemnity.

A memorial discussion on the life and achievements of Masima was held at Matri Mandir Govt Primary School, founded by Masima, at Manorama Basu Road (Kawnia Branch Road) of the city.

Manorama Basu Srmiti Trust organised the programme, presided over by Nikhil Sen. Among others, Jibonkrishna Dey, Rabeya Khatun Anowar Zahid, Tarun Chanda, Narayan Saha, Biswa Nath Dasmunshi, Nigar Sultana Hanufa were the speakers at the programme.

The speakers and participants at the programme while paying tributes to Masima, emphasised the need to follow in her footsteps to restore human and



women's rights in our society without aligning with religious or political beliefs and superstitions.

They demanded that school text books incorporate the life of Manorama Basu Masima as a subject of study.

Marorama Basu, later famous as 'Masima' (maternal aunt), was born in 1897 at Narottampur village under Banaripara upazila of Barisal district.

Her parents Nilkantha Roy and Promoda Sundari Roy were connected with anti-British Swadeshi movement and Manorama, who first learnt of the movement at the age of eight, later participated in Banga Bhanga Rodh Andolan (the movement against the partition of Bengal) as an Indian National Congress activist.

Manorama married Chinta Haron Basu, zamindar of Bakai, in 1911. The couple had four daughters and a son.

As the wife of a zamindar, Manorama was associated with different progressive socio-political activities and formed Mahila Samity in Barisal in 1925.

Manorama was sentenced to six months imprisonment and fined Taka 100 for participating in the civil disobedience movement against the British in 1930.

She established an education centre for women at her house in Kawnia area of Barisal city in 1932 and later after joining the Communist Party formed Soviet

Suhrid Samity in 1932-33.

Manorama founded 'Matri Mandir', an organisation to rehabilitate destitute women in 1933-34 at her residence in Barisal.

Her son and daughters were also connected with the anti-imperialist movement and arrested by British and Pakistan governments.

Masima was imprisoned by the Pakistan government for two years in 1948-50. Rearrested at the jail gates, she remained behind bars till 1952.

She went into hiding till 1956 as an arrest warrant was issued against her. She was widowed on May 10, 1954.

Masima was founder of Mohila Attorakkha Samity, Nari Kallyan Bhaban, Mukul Milon Khelaghar, Palli Unnyan Amrita Pathagar, Matri Mandir School.

Manorama remained active in many progressive socio-cultural-political movements of the region till her death on October 16, 1986 at her residence in Barisal.

A beacon for women's rights

Bikkhon holds discussion on Bhasha Matin

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Bikkhon, a study circle of Mymensingh Sahitya Sangad, organised its 1597th session at its office at Kachari Ferry Ghat area on the banks of Brahmaputra river Friday morning.

The programme was dedicated to Abdul Matin, popularly known as Bhasha Matin, a Language Movement veteran who passed away recently.

A poetry recitation session was held marking the occasion. Mahmud Al Mamun, Sabih Mahmud, Akanda Latif, Afia Akhtar, Shafiq Singhi, Dr. Saidul Islam, Waziul Alam, Shammim Ashraf, Gouranga Saha, Humayun Kabir and Ahmed Sahabuddin took part in the poetry recitation session, among others.

Earlier, a discussion titled, "Lifetime rebel Bhasha Matin" was also held. Poets Mosharrar Karim, Shamsul Fayeze, Yazdani Quraishy Kajal, Swadhin Chowdhury, Anup Sadi, Tapon Barmon, Bimol Pal and ANM Khairul Bashar Jahangir addressed the discussion.

Tarique Salahuddin, a veteran elocutionist, presided over the discussion.

The speakers pointed out that Bhasha Matin, a student leader and organiser of the Language Movement, first took the initiative to violate the section 144 (curfew) imposed by the then Pakistan rulers.

Bhasha Matin never ran after personal gains and his life of dignified struggle is an inspiration for us to protest against all injustice and deprivation, said the speakers.

His ideals and contributions will be educative for generations to come, they added.

Bikkhon's convener, poet Sajal Quraishy presented the programme.



Discussants at the event.

Aditi Mohsin's latest album launched

A CORRESPONDENT

Aditi Mohsin is a popular name among Rabindra Sangeet aficionados in the country, and the artiste has just released her latest album of Rabindra Sangeet, from the banner of Bengal Foundation.

The album, titled "Momo Rupey Beshe", was launched on Friday at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in Dhanmondi, with eminent artist Hashem Khan unveiling it. Aditi Mohsin also performed at the programme, where she presented songs from the album, and some on request from the audience.

"Momo Rupey Beshe" contains 10 songs, all of them from Tagore's plays, and includes the popular numbers "Shedin Dujoney Dulechhinu Boney" ("Shapmochon"), "Jete Jete Ekla Pothey" ("Arupratan"), "Amar Ongey Ongey Ke Bajaye" ("Chitrangada") and "O Je Maney Na Mana" ("Praioshchitto").





an Agniveena presentation
meghoboron | Tanjib

মেঘবরণ

lyrics & tune by TANJIB SAROWAR
SAJID SARKER vocals direction

Tanjib releases second solo album

A CORRESPONDENT

Young aspiring musician Tanjib Sarowar has released his second solo album "Meghoboron", under the banner of Agniveena. The pop album has nine tracks, titled "Emono Himel Hawa", "Jadukor", "Dil Amar", "Jano Meye", "Prempobon", "Oi Neel", "Meghoborone", "Tore Chhara" and "Murid-e-Shahjalal", all written and composed by Tanjib, and features female vocals from Kona, Naumi to Meghla.

Sajid Sarkar has directed music for the album.

Parbatya Lokoj Mela '14 in Bandarban

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA, Bandarban

To promote indigenous people's lifestyle, cultural diversity and tourism in the hill districts, a three-day indigenous folk fair named Parbatya Lokoj Mela 2014 begin in Bandarban on Saturday.

Jointly arranged by Bandarban Hill District Council (BHDC) and Channel i, the fair was inaugurated at Nilachal tourist spot by Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon as chief guest.

Sixteen ethnic communities, including Marma, Chakma, Bom, Mro, Chak, Tripura, Khumi, Tongchyang, Pangkhoya, Rakhain, Lushai, Monipuri, Khasia, Garo, Hazong and Bengali, will participate in a cultural programme.

Thirty stalls will be set at the traditional Rajar Math area where ethnic communities will highlight



PHOTO: STAR

their age-old heritage and traditions through a display of their attire, antiques and more, said the organizers of the fair.

The beauty of Bandarban attracts tourists from home and abroad, said

Kwe Shwe Hla, chairman of Bandarban Hill District Council. The government has undertaken a number of initiatives to boost tourist facilities in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), he added.