

<p>Solo Art Exhibition Alluvial Soul Artist: Kallidas Karmakar Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dhanmondi Date: Nov 20-Dec 16 Time: 12-8pm</p>		<p>Bengal Classical Music Fest 2014 Organiser: Bengal Foundation Venue: Army Stadium, Dhaka Date: Nov 27-Dec 1 Time: 5pm -5am</p>		<p>Group Art Exhibition Artworks by 40 Eminent Artists Venue: Bishwo Shahitto Kendro Art Gallery, Dhaka Date: Nov 14-28 Time: 3pm-8:30pm</p>		<p>Korean Film Festival Organiser: The Korean Embassy Dhaka Venue: Bangladesh National Museum Date: Nov 28-29 Time: 3pm-8pm</p>		<p>Solo Painting Exhibition Title: Life is Here Artist: Kanak Channa Chakma Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60, Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1 Date: Nov 15-Dec 6 Time: 12pm-8pm</p>	
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LIFE, CELEBRATED

Greats of the arts honoured, vibrant photos on exhibit and the exuberance of "Tasher Desh"

FAHMIM FERDOUS

"I don't know how to express my feelings, of getting such an honour. I'm ecstatic; at this late stage of my life, I don't know if I will ever get a chance to go on such a stage, and meet people like you again. I just hope and pray that the Almighty gives everyone the result of the hard work they put into anything," said towering figure of Bangla films of the yesteryears Rani Sarkar, in her trembling yet powerful voice, in reaction to receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award in films at the Celebrating Life Grand Gala. Sayeeda Khanum, pioneering photographer and photojournalist who received the Award in Photography, said "Receiving acknowledgement is always a good feeling; and I think when others see it, it also inspires them to strive for excellence. So this is a very special moment for me." She also thanked her cultural-minded family background that helped her to pursue a subject as photography in the 1950's, and reminisced about her exhibitions and accolades received abroad. Sheikh Sadi Khan, eminent composer who was this year's recipient of the Lifetime Achievement honours in music, observed that "Creative people usually work from behind the scenes. But times are changing, and creative souls are coming more to the fore." He also had some advice for young, aspiring composers and lyricists: "It's good to venture into new grounds, but somewhere in our music we must not lose the touch of our tradition, our history, our heritage and all that defines us."

Outside the main hall of the Osmani Memorial Auditorium where the Gala of the seventh Standard Chartered-The Daily Star Celebrating Life was being held, was a makeshift exhibition of the winning photos of the photography contest. On the theme "Living in Harmony", photographers put up some striking shots, spanning across approach and style. Coexistence, in many forms - of nature and humans, of different classes and religions, of working class people, and religious beliefs - were the highlight of the exhibit that had gorgeous landscapes, candid portraits and honest rural

lifestyle, along with some interesting perspective of festivals and traditions.

"Tasher Desh", Tagore's acclaimed dance-drama produced by Shadhona - one of the leading dance schools of the country - was the 'main event' at the gala, and an expectant audience was treated to some fine entertainment in the one-and-a-half hour production. Directed by dancer-choreographer Warda Rihab, it tells the tale of a prince and his merchant friend/accomplice on a quest, who survive a storm to stumble upon a strange land where everything is governed by strict rules and regulations; where everyone - from the king to the peasant - are just nameless, faceless 'cards'. But the duo's free spirit infects the 'cards', as they eventually break free of the rules that bind them, to shed their masks and find themselves.

Tagore's satirical take on the rigidity of the societal class system was brilliant in its literary terms - be it in the plot build-up, interjection of songs or the sharp, witty dialogues, but the visual interpretation was also done excellently, and the execution - although a little rough around the edges - did ample justice. Intermingling of dance forms Manipuri, Chhau and Western contemporary kept the choreography interesting, especially of the masked characters through the bulk of the play. The music was also a good mix of the textbook Tagore styles by Nandita Yasmin and Lopamudra Mitra and more unconventional vocals of Arnob, Anusheh and Rupankar Bagchi (Kolkata, India). Sabbir Ahmed and Amit Chowdhury were lively in the two central roles, and Warda Rihab lived well up to her reputation in another major character.

All in all, the evening was fitting of the event's title: as Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher, The Daily Star - said: "We often get bogged down by our struggles that we forget to celebrate our achievements; and it is important to acknowledge and recognise our successes," and was echoed by Jim McCabe, Country Chief of Standard Chartered Bank, who said "Arts and culture are vital components to promote the image of the country," voicing the bank's continued support for it.



Winning shots of the photography contest -- by Pankaj Sikder and Shaikh Mohir Uddin.



Glimpses of "Tasher Desh".



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

IT'S TRUE!



Bharatanatyam, one of the most popular and widely performed dance styles all over the world -- is a classical Indian dance form that originated in the temples of South India. This dance form denotes various 19th- and 20th-century reconstructions of Sadir, the art of temple dancers called Devadasis. Bharatanatyam is known for its grace, purity, tenderness, and sculptural poses. Lord Shiva is considered the God of this dance form. The name Bharatanatyam is of relatively recent origin; the original names were Sadir, Chinmamelan, and most commonly, Dasi Attam. The word combines is 'Bhavam' (expression), 'ragam' (music), 'thalam' (rhythm) and 'natyam' (dance).

HAY FESTIVAL 2014

Shakespeare is Ours

Four decades of Shakespeare in Bangladesh

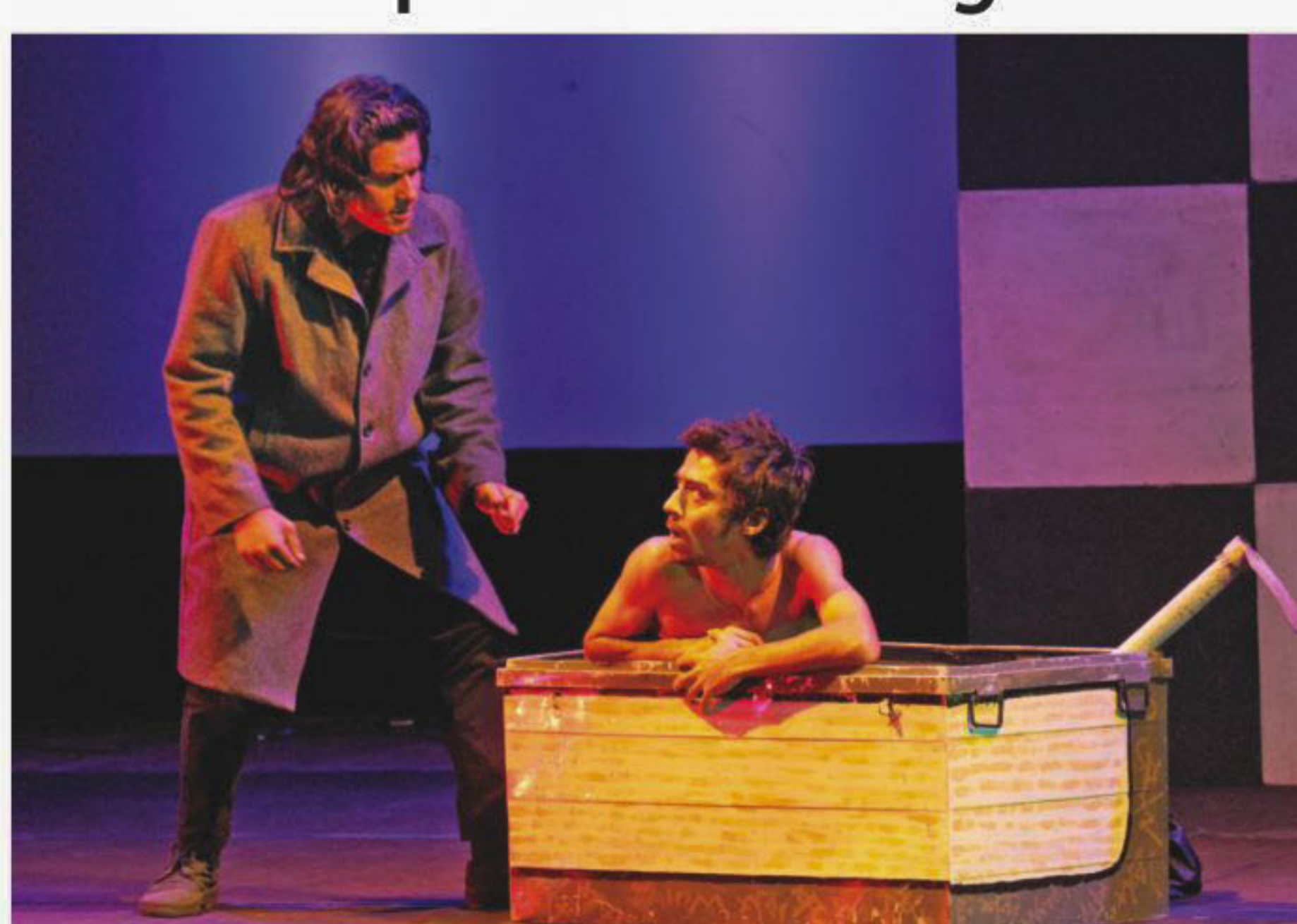
SAURAV DEY

On the third and closing day of the Hay Festival Dhaka 2014, a session celebrating the 450 years of Shakespeare, shed light on the universality of Shakespeare's works. How Elizabethan Shakespeare is transposed into a modern Bangladesh and how his plays became a part of Bangladesh's own theatre transcending the boundary of time and place, were central points in the session.

"Shakespeare is Ours: Celebrating 450 Years of Shakespeare" began at the main stage with the performance of selected parts from three plays of Shakespeare. Dhaka Theatre performed parts from "The Tempest", Theatre and Performance Studies Department of Dhaka University performed "Hamlet" and Padatik Natya Sangsad, TSC staged "Macbeth".

Following the performances, a panel discussion began with noted thespians Aly Zaker and Sara Zaker as panelists. Dr. Samina Lutfia, a playwright, theatre actor and a teacher at the Sociology Department of Dhaka University, moderated the session.

Aly Zaker began with the history of Shakespeare in Bangladesh. He walked down the memory lane to recall the days in his twenties, when he, as a young theatre activist translated Shakespeare in Bangla. Sara was a performer in the play called "Darpan" an adaptation of "Macbeth" in the dialect of the greater



A scene from the staging of "Hamlet".

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Mymensingh region.

Aly Zaker then moved on to explain the reason behind translating Shakespeare. He said, "I thought audience should be introduced to world theatre, and picked up Shakespeare since his plays assimilate world theatre. When 'Darpan' was staged, local audiences accepted it enthusiastically and we discovered the uncanny similarities between Shakespeare's words and ours," he added.

Sara Zaker, who played a witch in "Darpan", observed that the subtext is important while translating a work. Shakespeare's messages are universal and audience can easily relate to it.

The insightful session concluded with an emphasis on the socio-political relevance of Shakespearean plays in the present context of Bangladesh. The panelists came to a point that Shakespeare is close to our ethos.

Down the back-allies of remembrance

Shahzaman Mozumder revisits the battlefields of a brutal and stirring past

AMIYA HALDER

Pindrop silence and an air of awe filled the Cosmic Tent, as four great storytellers took the stage on the third and final day of Hay Festival 2014. Accompanied on stage by acclaimed writers Syed Manzoorul Islam, A Qayyum Khan and Kaiser Huq, the launching of Shahzaman Mozumder's new memorandum on 1971, "The Guerrilla", by Daily Star Books took place in front of a brimming and absorbed crowd composed of literary enthusiasts and history buffs.

Known by most as the King of Dhaka, a connoisseur of French cuffs and herringbone who runs men's style blog, Mozumder's uncompromising eye for detail is not lost in "The Guerilla", where amidst excruciating descriptions of guns, tanks and rocket launchers, lies a deeply human story of the events that unfolded in the life of a boy who chose to become a soldier.

"In every page there is a tremendous sympathy for those he fought with, not only those he fought for", said Syed Manzoorul Islam on Mozumder's larger-than-life chronicles. While explaining his reasons for writing the memoir, Mozumder shared that he felt an overwhelming urge to tell the stories of those comrades who were never recognised for their gallantry, not even in the extensive body of works the country has produced on 1971. "I am not the hero of my book. If you fight with heroes, you cannot help but become



(L-R) Syed Manzoorul Islam, A Qayyum Khan, Kaiser Huq and Shahzaman Mozumder at the book launch.

one yourself," he adds. Throughout the evening, Mozumder imparted extraordinary tales of his luck in the war, from escaping arrest as a jasad to being saved from starvation at Teliapara by Major General Matin. "War is not like the movies," opined the Bir Protik as he confessed to writing only about wherever "the beam of his torchlight fell."

Sometimes humorous and full of lightness, there is no judgment in this sympathetic piece of work, which refuses to get lost in the murky waters of politics. What A Qayyum Khan describes as a "Huckleberry Finn story with characters out of nowhere" and full of "hilarious and idiotic scenarios", "The Guerilla" is told with the utmost forthrightness and generosity. Whether he is describing battle fatigue in the tall grasses of the front lines or escaping a shower of shells from the skies, this book promises many things and keeps those promises.

"Hindsight is always 20-20, but that is futile. So far, I had believed that the deaths were necessary, but now I ask, was it truly?" Mozumdar exclaimed in his closing remarks. Although it may be too early, these questions will be asked by our grandchildren, he professed. On that robust note which left the audience deep in thought, the launch of a book that should become part of everybody's collection, drew to an exhilarating end.

"Mockingjay" posts best debut of 2014



"The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1" soared to the largest opening day of the year at the US box office, with \$55 million on Friday. The third installment in the Lionsgate franchise is on its way to north of \$130 million this weekend, which would be the best debut of 2014.

But Despite the strong showing, the film is far behind the first two movies, grossing 20% less than its predecessors. Early US box office projections for "Mockingjay" were as high as \$150 million.

"The Hunger Games" launched to \$152 million in 2012 and last year's sequel "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" debuted to \$158 million. However, the film is taking off overseas, having earned more than \$67.5 million in three days at the international box office.

Internationally, "Mockingjay" was the top opener of the year in nearly every market. It's now showing in 85 territories since hitting theaters on Wednesday, making it the biggest day-and-date release of the year and Lionsgate's widest release of all time.

If the weekend estimate holds, "Mockingjay" will have the highest-grossing opening of 2014 by a long shot, easily overtaking "Transformers: Age of Extinction", which opened to \$100 million in June. Only 15 other films have reached \$120 million domestically in their debuts, led by Marvel's "The Avengers" with \$207.4 million in 2012.

The film has accumulated \$8.2 million in two days in the UK, hit \$6 million during the same time frame in Germany and \$5.3 million in Russia.

As for the rest of the US box office, "Big Hero 6" was a distant second. Disney's animated hit is headed for \$19 million-plus in its third frame, which would raise its cumulative to \$135 million.

Last weekend's winner, "Dumb and Dumber To," came in third on Friday, followed by Paramount's "Interstellar" and Fox's thriller "Gone Girl".

Source: Variety