

WHAT'S ON

9th Annual Theatre Fest
Organiser: Dept of Theatre and Performance Studies, DU
Venue: TSC
Date: Dec 1-12
Time: 6:30pm

শুভা বিশ্বাস
৯ম বার্ষিকী থিয়েটার ফেস্ট ২০১৪
১-১২ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৪
৬:৩০ টা

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Proshanta Karmakar
Buddha
Venue: Café Mango Gallery,
H-3/A, Rd-72, Gulshan
Date: Nov 14-Jan 14
Time: 10am-10pm

Painting Exhibition
Title: Monochrome
Organiser: Bengal Foundation
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Date: Dec 3-Dec 14
Time: 12pm-8pm

16th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: December 1-31
Time: 11am to 8pm except Fridays (3-8pm)

Friday Open Mic
Organiser: Jatra Biroti
Venue: Jatra Banani Outlet, Kemal Ataturk Ave.
Date: Dec 12
Time: 6pm-10pm

NEWS
bytes

Smith V Sheeran for BBC Music Award title



Fresh from their multiple nominations at the Grammys, Ed Sheeran and Sam Smith are going to head to head at the first ever BBC Music Awards. Both will compete for the British artiste of the year title against the likes of Elbow, Jungle and Royal Blood. David Bowie is also on the shortlist.

Two country stars from different eras, Dolly Parton and Taylor Swift, are in the running for the best international artiste along with Gregory Porter, Lorde, Pharrell and Prince.

The winners will be chosen by a BBC Music panel as well as leading music journalists.

The show will take place in front of a live audience of 13,500 people at London's Earls Court on December 11, with big names performing on the night, including One Direction, Coldplay, Paloma Faith, Calvin Harris and Take That.

Source: **BBC**

Breaking out of the norm of the form

Shyam Benegal felicitated at ISIFF

FAHMIM FERDOUS

"What has always fascinated me about cinema of South Asia is that it is so completely different from the rest of the world; there is no other country in the world that has this form," began Shyam Benegal -- seven-time Indian National Film Award winner and recipient of honours as big as Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri, at his felicitation by the International Short and Independent Film Festival (ISIFF), currently ongoing in Dhaka. The event was held at the Dance and Music Auditorium of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on Sunday, where Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu was present as chief guest.

But before the stalwart filmmaker gave a captivating mini-lecture about the form and content of films, filmmaker and expert Salauddin Zaki and M Omar Rahman, Vice Chancellor of Independent University, Bangladesh -- who were co-organisers of the event, spoke at the event.

Benegal spoke of how the concept of dance and songs are so deeply rooted in the films of this region. "It all comes from a common tradition, and it is one that follows a common aesthetic principle that we all naturally follow. And it is based on certain principles that come down in both folk and classical culture, from Sanskrit theatre." He spoke of the 'Navaras' or the



An animated Benegal (2-R) responds to a question from the audience.

nine essences that is mentioned in classical thinking of the emotions we all have, and the audience derives an aesthetic pleasure from a combination and variation of all the essences in any kind of art or entertainment. Indian theatre, in its effort to provide a totality of the aesthetic experience, brought in other forms of art, like music, dance and even acrobatics. "Even during the silent film era, there would be live performances in between changing of reels. But when sound came, it became easy to integrate everything together. When we made our first film, 'Alam Ara' in 1931, I don't know if you all know it -- but it had 65 songs!" Benegal exclaimed. "This form became so popular that we

made their appearance at the same time, and came up with films with their own voices. While the Indian audience would only be aesthetically satisfied with a film that had all the nine essences, these three didn't reject it; but they presented it in a different form." The revolutionary and radical movement that essentially started in the Bangla language then spread to other parts of India, in Malayalam and Odissi, but not in Hindi, Benegal added. But that was until Benegal himself, and a few others (in his words) came to the scene all at once. "I was quite conscious that it was important for films to offer a complete aesthetic experience; but it did not have to follow the form." He however also clarified that such form-defying films remain at the margins and not into the mainstream, in any language or region. "But what it has done is given cinematic art and entertainment a whole new dimension that no one believed existed," Benegal closed on a positive note.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu termed Benegal a "co-fighter" in the struggle for secular, liberal thinking, and sought his help in making the Bangladesh Film and Television Institute a world-class organisation. He handed a crest to the filmmaker, and adorned him with an uttaro. Also present at the programme were organisers of ISIFF and noted film personalities-- including Nasiruddin Yousuff, Manzare Hasin Murad, Morshedul Islam and Moshuiddin Shaker.

Be Smart About Art on display at Athena Gallery



A CORRESPONDENT

The Athena Gallery of Fine Arts inaugurated its 16th official exhibition "Be Smart About Art" on December 7. The exhibition has been timed to celebrate the upcoming New Year. The works of eight eclectic young accomplished artists-- Anisuzzaman, Ashim Halder Sagor, Ashrafur Hasan, Bipasha Hayat, Bishwajit Goswami, Maksuda Iqbal Nipa, Nazia Andaleeb Preema and Pijush Kanti Sarkar-- showcasing Bangladeshi contemporary art culture are currently on display at the gallery.

The exhibition is an opportunity to learn about their opinions on the rising middle class, the political changes and economic growth of the recent times. In addition the artworks are themed on industrial revolution and globalisation, and are depicted through various mediums of expression.

The exhibition will run till December 20.

IT'S TRUE!



Elton John started playing the piano at the age of three, and within a year, his mother heard him picking out Winifred Atwell's "The Skater's Waltz" by ear. After performing at parties and family gatherings, at the age of seven he took up formal piano lessons. He showed musical aptitude at school, including the ability to compose melodies. At the age of 11, he won a junior scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music. According to one of his instructors, John promptly played back, like a 'gramophone record', a four-page piece by Handel that he heard for the first time.

Samira Abbasi

Mustafa Zaman Abbasi's daughter Samira Abbasi -- a musician, poet and engineer who lives in Florida, USA, writes about her father on his birthday, which was on December 8.

Today, I am going to tell you the story of a musician whose life has been like that of a treasure hunter. Typical treasure hunters have discovered cities, relics of civilizations, sunken ships and buried treasures and riches. Our treasure hunter devoted his life to find, collect and archive songs, tunes, lyrics in the beautiful vast land he calls his motherland, Bangladesh. He did not need maps, scrolls or hidden clues for his journey, just his unequivocal love for music and a heart made of pure gold. He also discovered many talented artists and musicians from the cores of unheard villages and streets and presented them to the nation as gifts. Yes, I am talking about Mustafa Zaman Abbasi, whom I am fortunate to call my father.

Ever since I was a little child, I remember him bringing back new people at our home almost few evenings every week, mostly from villages and outskirts of the-then Dhaka territory. He would softly tell



my mom that there would be guests for dinner after they arrived, usually at least three to four at a time. My mother, being the loving gracious lady that she is, would always accommodate them with a smile. In our dinner table we met these unknown people, and we knew after dinner, a show was sure to follow. Most times these artistes my dad stumbled upon would sing till late and the aroma of their music would linger in the air as me and my younger sister fell into slumber. Their raw unadulterated voice, beautiful melody of dotara, ektara and dhol would fill our living room with ethereal bliss. Once these artists where discovered, he would present them to the Radio, concerts and

would record the new songs in reel tape. Hence he collected thousands of folk songs that would otherwise be lost in oblivion. At one point the famous Smithsonian Institute showed interest in archiving his valuable collection of Bangladeshi folk songs. He has already published two books on Bhawaiya music with staff notation of about 1,200 songs which is an asset to our musical collection. I am sure the singers of future will consider this as a treasure chest from which they can derive, learn and master these folk songs many years after the composers and original singers have passed away.

Abba has travelled to numerous folk melas throughout Bangladesh and this is also a rich venue where he discovered many singers, dotara players, Bauls and later brought them into the limelight. I have fond memories of travelling to Sureshwar Mela where we listened to all night renderings of fantastic musicians that till date stay with me.

Mustafa Zaman Abbasi always considers himself a rich man, as he has thousands of songs bejeweled with the crispness of folk tunes, rich lyrics and old heritage. I salute his lifelong dedication and achievements.

You have truly found the treasures. Happy birthday Abba!

Shubhro Dev releases "Jol-Chhobi"

A CORRESPONDENT

Singer Shubhro Dev's 26th solo album "Jol-Chhobi" was launched on December 6 through a programme held at Purbani Hotel in the capital. Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, poet Asad Chowdhury, actor Pijush Bandyopadhyay, former Bangladesh National Cricket Team captain, Rakibul Hasan and popular singer Hamin Ahmed were present at the ceremony.

Suvro Dev gained popularity as a singer when he released his first audio album "Hamelein-er Shei Banshiwala" in 1984. Till date he has produced and recorded over 30 albums.



TV WATCH

Drama serial Apurba on Maasranga

A CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Apurba" goes on air on Maasranga Television at 11pm from Monday to Thursday. Written jointly by Syed Ziauddin and Prithviraj Ghosh, the drama serial is directed by



Aishwarya, Ranbir, Anushka in Johar's next

Karan Johar's next film "Ae Dil Hai Mushkil" will star Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Ranbir Kapoor and Anushka Sharma together. About the film, Karan Johar said love and conflict is the theme of his next directorial endeavor which will fulfill his big dream to work with Aishwarya. He said, "I have always wanted to work with Aishwarya. She and I have missed working with each other on several opportunities."

He also said that Ranbir and Anushka's undeniable chemistry in their upcoming film "Bombay Velvet" prompted him to sign the two after he had finalised the script. And, Aishwarya's role in the film will be her most unusual and contemporary character, he added.

The film will be shot in New York, London, Paris and Delhi and will tentatively hit theatres in June, 2016.

