

The rebellious gene

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From building awe-inspiring mosques to upholding Bengali and Sanskrit, the rulers contributed a lot. Sultan Ghiyasuddin Azam Shah (1390-1410) even invited the legendary poet Hafiz from Persia to his magnificent court in Sonargaon, although the poet had to turn him down because of the long voyage he would need to embark on.

The Independent Sultanate of Bengal saw the rise and fall of a few dynasties.

The prosperous land could easily make one ambitious. The house of Raja Ganesha came into power after the rule of Ilyas Shah dynasty, but the latter again regained throne several decades later. In another instance, the authority of the restored dynasty was challenged by Abyssinians (the Habsis), who were mainly recruited as slaves

to serve the royalty. Revolting against their master, the rule of 'slavery to royalty' went on for almost a decade.

The last independent Sultanate dynasty was that of

Hussain Shahi, who ruled till 1538, the year marking the sunset of the Independent Sultanate of Bengal.

On this Victory Day, we salute all the brave heroes Bengal has witnessed -- from time immemorial to the rebellious Sultans to the valiant freedom fighters who finally gave birth to the independent land of Bangladesh.

By M H Haider

Special thanks to Dr. A.K.M. Shahnawaz, Professor, Department of Archaeology, Jahangirnagar University for providing valuable information for the write-up. Other sources of information include Social History of the Muslims in Bengal by Abdul Karim and Glimpses of Old Dhaka by Syed Muhammed Taifoor.



THANK GOD IT'S FRIDAY

BY TANZIRAL DILSHAD DITAN



Gitanjali presents Benny Dayal, live in Dhaka

Date: Thursday, 18 December

Time: 7pm

Venue: Grand Ball Room, Radisson Water Garden Hotel Dhaka



The hottest Bollywood sensation of the year and singer of Badtameez Dil, Bang Bang and many more hit songs - Benny Dayal will be performing live in Dhaka on 18 December, 2014 at Radisson Blu. For information on reservations, log on to the link below and get a 10 per cent discount for the first 50 registrations. <http://goo.gl/7w4960>. You can also call 0194 535 7313.

Concert for Kombol

Date: Friday, 19 December

Time: 2pm till 11pm

Venue: Kalabagan Krira Chakra Field

With an aim to spread the warmth of a blanket throughout the country, a charity concert is being arranged. Artists who have selflessly extended their support to the cause include - Aurthohin, Bappa & Friends, Chirkutt, Dharok, Different Touch, Dreek, Habib, KHC and Friends, Maqsood O Dhaka,



Obscure, Shunno, Tahsan, and Yaatri, and they will all perform at the event. Gate opens at 2pm on Friday. For details on how you can participate log onto <http://goo.gl/4LzswU>; www.projectkombol.com

Human Rights Day - Honoring the Defenders

Date: Till 24 December

Time: 9.30am till 8pm

Venue: EMK Center, House 5, Road 16 (New) 27 (Old), 9th Floor, Midas Center, Dhanmondi

EMK Center is arranging a photo exhibition to highlight International Human Rights Day. The images are taken by Eddie Adams, the Pulitzer Prize winning photographer of 1969. The exhibition is open to all between 9.30am till 8pm (except public holidays).

Ancient Gems: Munshiganj

Date: Tuesday, 16 December

Time: 7.30am - 8.30pm

Venue: Munshiganj, Dhaka

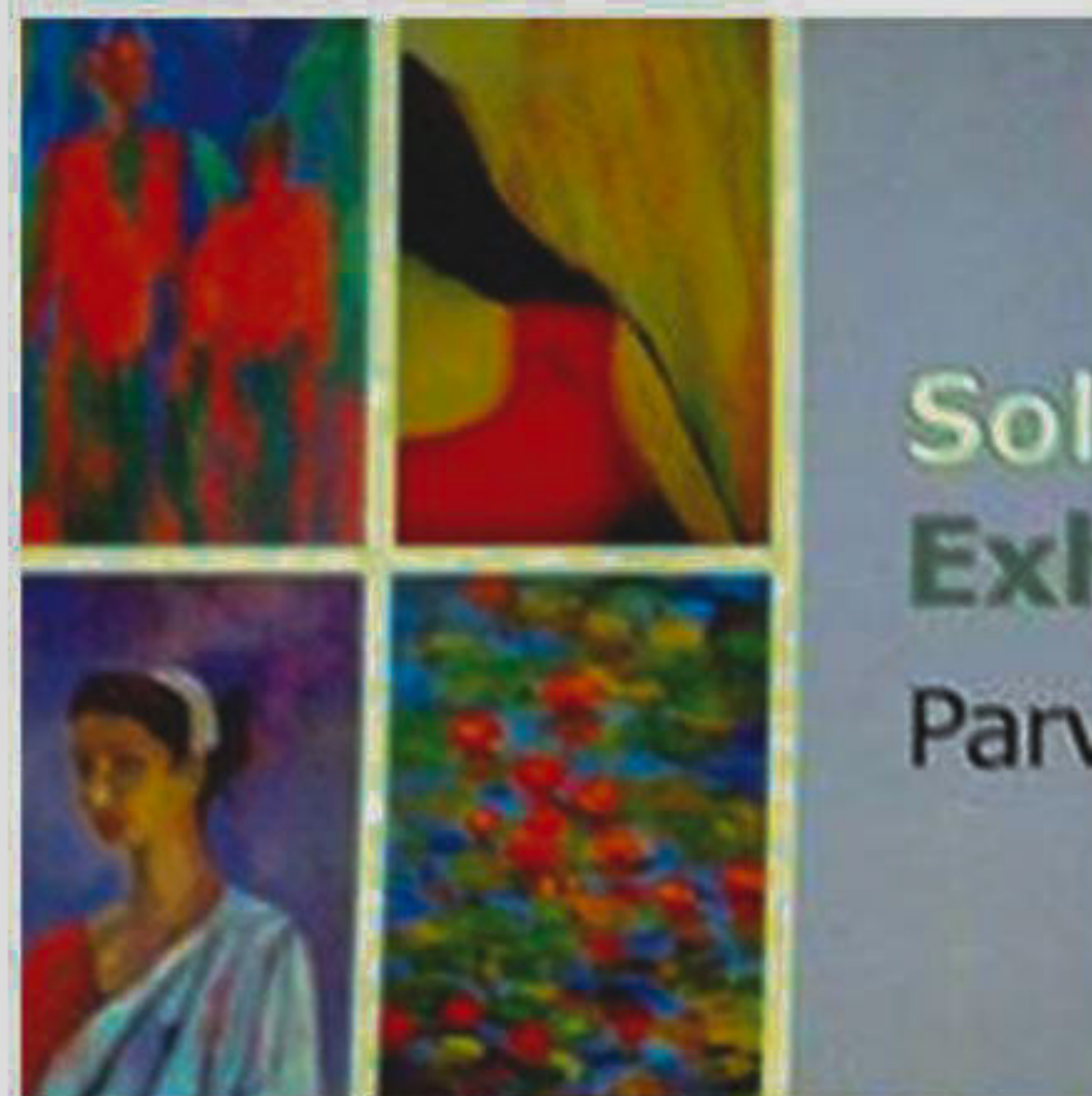
Munshiganj is the birthplace of Atish Dipankar and has always been a very sacred site for Buddhist travellers, but little is known of the other historical sites that are hidden in its alleys. Aparajito and Tiger Tours have joined hands to unlock the mysteries of Munshiganj for the history enthusiasts. For more information call 0172 004 2007, 0171 150 6482.

Solo art exhibition by Parveen Zaman Shammu

Date: 16-18 December 2014

Venue: Dhaka Art Center, House 60, Road 7/A, Dhanmondi R/A

Dhaka Art Center presents a solo art exhibition by Parveen Zaman Shammu. Professor Abul Barq Alvi has kindly con-



sented to grace the opening ceremony. The exhibition is open to all.

Shifting sands, an art exhibition

Date: 16-27 December, 2014

Time: 12pm to 8pm

Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60 Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1

Bengal Art Lounge cordially invites you to Shifting Sands - an exhibition of drawings and paintings by Nasima Khan at the Bengal Art Lounge. Professor Shamsul Wares of the Department of Architecture, BUET will inaugurate the exhibition.

Chhayanaught Classical Music Conference

Date: Thursday, 18 December

Time: 7pm

Venue: Chhayanaught, House-72, Road-15/A, Dhanmondi R/A

Ebadul Huq Shaikat, the performer at the conference, is a disciple of the world renowned sitar maestro Pundit Kartik Seshadri. In 1993 Shaikat started learning sitar under the mentorship of Ustad Khurshid Khan at Chhayanaught Sangeet Vidyayatan, Dhaka. In 1995 he went to India

for higher, musical study with an ICCR Scholarship at Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata. He successfully completed his Honours and Masters in Instrumental Music (sitar) from the same university. Shaikat is one of the best exponents of sitar and the conference promises an enchanting evening.

BANFF Mountain Film Festival World Tour 2014

Date: 19-20 December, 2014

Time: 5pm till 8pm

Venue: Bishwo Shahitto Kendro, 17 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka

Mountaineering has recently caught the attention of the youth of the country and to boost the enthusiasm a film festival is being arranged. For more information on the festival visit

<http://www.kewkradong.com/2014/11/film-s-2014>; to order tickets log onto



<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/banff-mountain-film-festival-world-tour-2014-tickets-14407921481?aff=efbevent>