

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

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

Zainul Birth Centenary
 Organiser: FFA, DU
 Venue: Charukola
 Date: Dec 26-29
 Time: 9am-9pm

Homage to Zainul Birth Centenary
 Organiser: Ministry of Cultural Affairs
 Venue: Main Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum
 Date: Dec 29; Time: 2:30pm (for invitee only) 4pm (open for all)

Photography Exhibition
 Title: On Boarders
 Organiser: Bengal Foundation and Goethe Institute Dhaka
 Venue: Daily Star-Bengal Art Precinct
 Date: Dec 10-January 04
 Time: 12pm-8pm

NEWS bytes

Sandler tops overpaid actor list

Adam Sandler has topped Forbes' list of Hollywood's most overpaid actors for a second consecutive year. The comedian came ahead of Johnny Depp and Ben Stiller, who complete the top three, to pick up the honour.

The rankings were decided by the magazine after comparing actors' estimated pay with the budget and revenue of the last three films they starred in before June 2014.

Animated films and cameos were not included in the list.

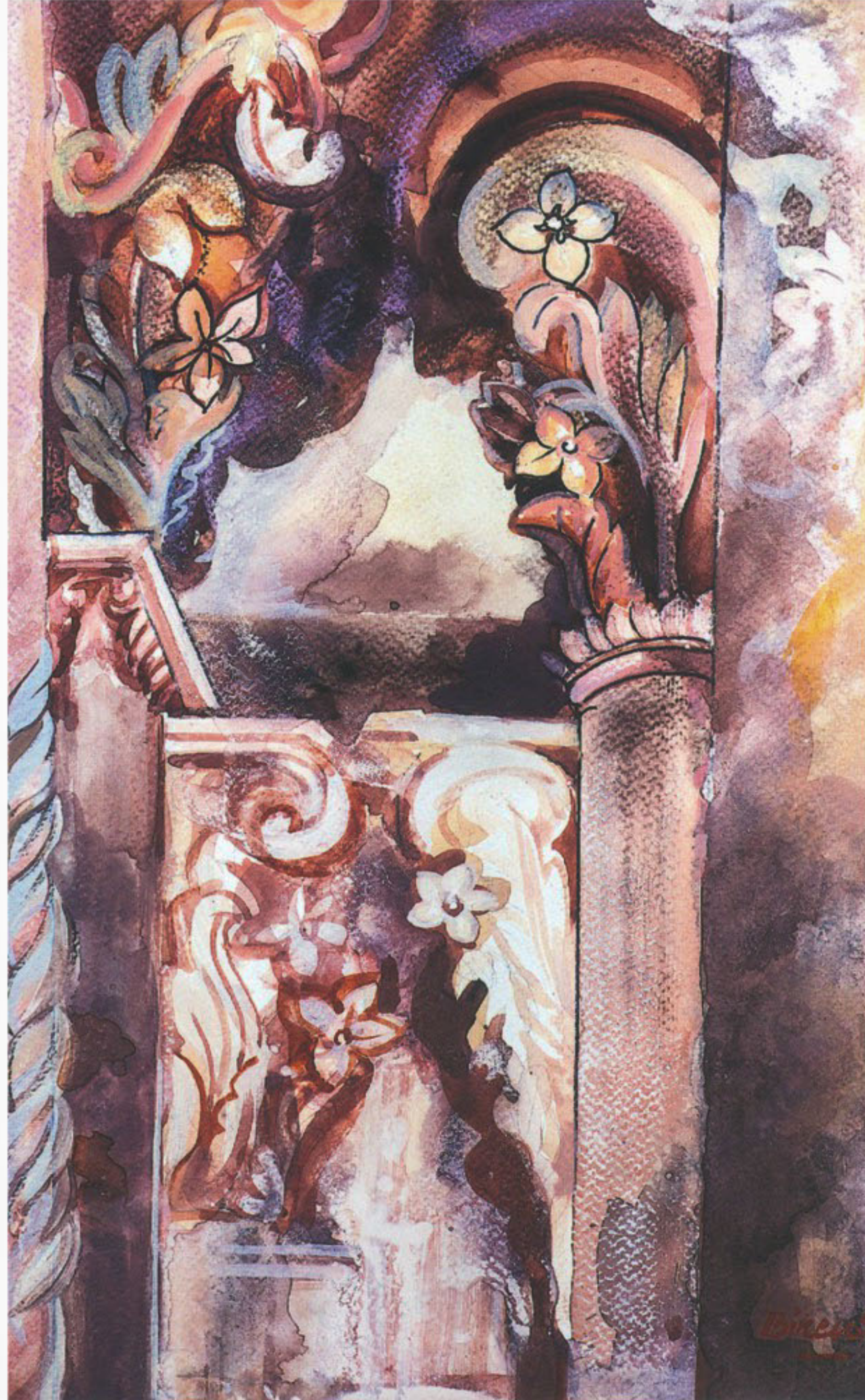


Although Sandler's latest film "Grown Ups 2" took \$246m at the global box office, it didn't make up for the more disappointing takings of 48-year-old's previous releases, "Jack and Jill" and "That's My Boy".

It's estimated that for every \$1 Sandler was paid, he returned an average of \$3.20. By comparison, Emma Stone - who topped Forbes' 2013 best actors for the buck list - returned an estimated \$80.70 for every \$1 she was paid.

Source: BBC

Idyllic and restful Panamnagar
Biren Shome's exhibition opens at Shilpangan



FAYZA HAQ

At Sonargaon's Panamnagar was a rich, luxurious, multi-dimensional and somewhat mind-boggling civilization. Sultans reigned here for 372 years. Emperor Akbar established the province or 'sube' after the victory of Bengal in 1576 AD. Even before that, the Ilyas Shahi dynasty was established in 1342. It had palaces, temples, dance-rooms, bathrooms, shelter rooms and escape-rooms. The people who lived there were rich, successful and engaged in the jewellery, muslin and other lucrative businesses.

Artist Biren Shome's sketches and paintings of Panamnagar, currently on display at the Shilpangan Gallery titled "Date Down Memory Lane", speak of that culture, history and society of the time. The exhibition opened on December 27 and remains on till January 10.

Why has Biren, an artist of repute, focused on Panamnagar? He chooses to delineate this historical place, with which he fell in love when he went there in the 1965 batch of the students of the Dhaka Arts College. He has seen the place crumbling with time, but the government has taken no action. However, now the government has woken up to the fact of its imminent decay, and is determined to renovate the palace.

Biren has done 10 Panamnagar creations in watercolour, and other boats on the Buriganga and Acharya Ghat (going to Faridpur). These were in the exhibition "Joler Dharey". Since then, Panamnagar has sunk deep into his psyche. In 2010 the artist did a workshop in watercolour with 50 students, going to Panamnagar by bus.

In 2013 and 2014, Biren has been working seriously on this subject. He took photographs and employed several photographers also for the project. He read books on the topic and gathered information from research papers like the PhD paper of Shikoa Nazreen from Jahangirnagar University.

The architectural view of "Zamindar House" and "Nach Ghar" took on a life of their own with light streaming through the glass windows, the dancers and tipplers had a merry life of their own. The floral designs of the upper roof, the iron gates with their trellises and intertwining motifs in wrought iron bringing in floral and leaf designs and more ornamental motifs were intermingled in this cornucopia of motifs. To add variation, the artist took pictures from the top of the buildings, and through the arches and windows, as well as between the pillars.

What is important is that all the lines and forms have been created out of the artist's vivid imagination. Even the "Pankhiraj Pool" has entered the painter's palette. Nothing is slipshod or easily attained. The sketches and paintings are a labour of love. The "Saraswati" image just as the other goddesses and bird images have been preserved and painted for all time to come with care.

The paintings and pictures are soft and inimitable, and transport one to a world of dreams.

TV WATCH



As Part of BTV's Golden Jubilee celebrations, Dhaka Theatre's stage play "Iti Potromita" will be shown on the channel at 8:30pm today.



Murtaza Kabir Murad performs flute at a memorial programme for eminent artist Qayyum Chowdhury, held at Chhayanaut on Friday. Deshikottom Dr. Sanjida Khatun, one of the cornerstones of Chhayanaut, and poet Abul Hasnat spoke on the occasion, while Mita Haq, Iffat Ara Dewan, Dr. Sarwar Ali and Sharmin Sathi Islam, among others, performed songs.

Promoting Bangladeshi theatre in USA

Obaidullah Zakir on BTH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Theatre Houston (BTH) is a non-profit organisation based in Houston, USA that works as an intellectual platform for creating a wealth of knowledge about theatre and performance related disciplines. Promoting Bangladeshi culture through group theatre production is the aim of this organisation.



BTH began their journey in 2013 with the staging of their first play "Shubochon Nirbashone". The Abdullah Al Mamun play received acclaim from the audience. Inspired by its success, the organisation went on to stage a few more productions.

Obaidullah Zakir, one of the main organisers of BTH and the director of plays said, "I have been involved with group theatre from my childhood. Bangladesh Association Houston, an association of immigrant Bangladeshis, has long been arranging cultural programmes. And we thought, we could include theatre as well. Then we staged 'Shubochon Nirbashone' and realised that theatre could draw audiences even in the Diaspora."

"We collected funds from local sponsors and residents, and used that fund for staging the show. Bangladesh Association received donations from its members to support the production. We also sold tickets for the play. We got around a 600-strong audience at the first show; it was a huge number," he added.

"Later we brought to stage 'Payer Awaj Pawa Jaye'. Currently we have 50 members who are actively involved with theatrical productions. The group runs on donations. We rehearse at the house of one of our members. Our latest production is 'Meraj Fakir Maa'," Zakir informed.

Zakir concluded that the lack of enthusiasm for theatre among immigrant Bangladeshi communities disappoints him. Uppermost in his mind is to promote theatre so that immigrants can learn about Bangladeshi culture and revive connections with their roots.

IT'S TRUE!



Led Zeppelin drummer John Bonham, considered one of the all-time greatest rock drummers, began learning to play at five, making a kit of containers and coffee tins, imitating his idols Max Roach, Gene Krupa and Buddy Rich. Bonham never took formal drum lessons, though as a teen he had advice from other drummers. Bonham attended Lodge Farm Secondary Modern School, where his headmaster wrote in his report that "He will either end up a dustman or a millionaire." When Led Zeppelin was forming (then called New Yardbirds), he was called upon but was reluctant to join, and it took him eight telegrams from guitarist Jimmy Page and 40 more from manager Peter Grant before he decided to join the would-be legendary band.

Immersed in Joler Gaan at Bokultala

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Eager music lovers assembled at Bokultala, Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA) of University of Dhaka on December 26 evening to enjoy music of popular band Joler Gaan. The authority of FFA organised the live concert marking birth centenary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin.

Front-man Rahul Anand, back on the stage after his return from South Korea, enthralled the audience with his carefree instrumental improvisations and even impromptu lyrical additions and the typical witty exchanges with percussionist Jarnal. While vocalists Kanak and Xem, and the others of the group maintained a compact performance, what made it special was Rahul Anand's somewhat renewed showmanship. Tota, Rahul's little son, was also on stage, playing one instrument or other, to augment the jubilation of the live event. It was, in a word, a fiesta of soulful songs with unbridled fun.

The imageries that the lyrics of Joler Gaan suggest are unparalleled. Exquisite elements of nature, extraordinary thoughts and depth and literary allusions zoom in on the focal point of every song. Along with these, fabulous melodic incorporation and theatrical presentations of songs kept the music lovers satisfied throughout. As Rahul himself said, Joler Gaan looks to 'paint pictures with words', the lyrics and music continued to depict rhythmic images on a poetic canvas.

The crowd enthusiastically sang along while



The band engages the audience.

PHOTO: STAR

the band performed songs including "Ei Pagol", "Tumi Amar Pashe Bondhu Hey" (written by painter Dhruvo Esh), "Rong-er Gaan", "Mayer Jonno Gaan", "Jhora Pata'r Gaan", "Andhar Raite" and a blissful instrumental piece named "Ponkhiraaj". Dean of FFA, Professor Nisar Hossain spoke amid the performance. As ardent fans remained unmoved

even after Rahul Anand declared the show over, the band members took off the musical flight and ended up performing more numbers, including "Patar Gaan", "Geetol Chithi" and "Bokul Phul". The untainted folk melody of the song mingled with the dew-dropping bokul flowers on stage, as the audience dispersed into the night.

Working with Aamir was surreal ... Anushka



Anushka Sharma said that she often had an "out-of-body-experience" while working with Aamir Khan. "I would be sitting on the sets and Aamir would be around somewhere, and I'd probably be thinking something in my own space ... and suddenly I would look at him and it would just hit me — it's Aamir Khan," said the 26-year-old actress. She also added that coming from a completely non-film background, it is a surreal experience for her to be working and hobnobbing with big actors.

Source: Hindustan Times

Hurt kid leaves hospital In Spider-Man cast

Spider-Man may not be having the best time of it on film right now, but the web-slinger remains an important pop culture figure, especially with children. As with many superheroes, he often serves as a larger-than-life character that provides comfort to those of a younger age. Such is the case with three-year old Sawyer Singleton, whose recent injury has him dressing up like Spider-Man in a unique way to help with the healing.

Sawyer's mother Danielle told KATV News that he was taken to the Arkansas Children's Hospital after he had a bad fall on one of his toys. The result was a broken leg, which required a full body cast from ankle to chest that he'll have to wear approximately six to eight weeks. The prospect of being encased in something like that would be daunting for any age, but for a three-year old, it's especially challenging. Fortunately, one of the nurses remembered that Sawyer was interested in having a Spider-Man cast, and the hospital staff sprung into action. Dr. Brien Rabenhorst, the pediatric orthopedic surgeon on Sawyer's case, enlisted the help of X-Ray technician Ted Sharp to decorate Sawyer's cast. Despite Sharp's insistence that he's not an artist, the end result was a good



translation of Spider-Man's costume using only a sharpie for the web pattern, which only took him five minutes to draw.

The decorated cast may not do anything to speed up the healing process, but it has been a success with helping Sawyer through this ordeal. As an added bonus, the staff also made a cast for Sawyer's Spider-Man doll to wear as well. Sawyer still has several weeks before the leg is fully healed, but the cast has made the toddler feel like he's a superhero himself.

Sawyer's superhero cast isn't the only way Marvel's resident wall-crawler has cheered up a sick child. Earlier this year, a father dressed up as Spider-Man for his terminally ill son's fifth birthday. Superheroes may be primarily seen as a form of entertainment, but for children, they can often serve as an important way to make it through challenging times, and once again Spider-Man has served this purpose well.

Source: Cinema Blend