

**WHAT'S ON**  
**4th Kibria Print Fair**  
 Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, Rd-7/A, Dhanmendi  
 Date: Jan 1-5  
 Time: 3-8pm

**Selected Nakshi Kantha Exhibition**  
 Collection of Zainul Abedin  
 Venue: Bengal Gallery  
 Date: Dec 23-Jan 10  
 Time: 12-8pm

**Book Festival**  
 Venue: Public Library, Shahbagh  
 Date: Jan 1-14  
 Time: 11am-8pm

**Art Exhibition**  
 Alluvial Return  
 Artist: Kalidas Karmakar  
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
 Date: Jan 4-16; Time: 11am-8pm

**Lecture on "Renewal of ancestral tradition"**  
 Guest: Heisnam Kanhalal  
 Organiser: IGCC and Sadhona  
 Venue: IGCC, Gulshan-1

**NEWS bytes**

**Jamie Oliver turned down Hobbit role**



Celebrity TV chef Jamie Oliver has revealed he turned down the chance to appear as a Hobbit in one of Peter Jackson's big-screen blockbusters. The culinary guru said he had been offered the role in return for flying to New Zealand in 2001 to cook at the director's 50th birthday celebrations.

"I really wanted to do it," he revealed during filming for his new TV show. However, he went on, he was unable to accept due to work commitments.

"The worst thing that happened to me was that I got phoned up by the exec producer and asked did I want to go and cook for Peter Jackson's birthday," he said. "And if I did, they would fly me over and I could be a hobbit in the film. But I was working; I couldn't get out of it."

Oliver's non-appearance has not stopped the Hobbit films racking up epic box office returns around the globe. "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies," the third and final installment in Jackson's fantasy saga released last week, held off war drama "Unbroken" and "Into the Woods" to retain the top spot at US and Canada box offices.

Source: BBC

# Kibria Print Fair begins in the capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking 86th birth anniversary of artist Mohammad Kibria and its fifth founding anniversary, Dhaka art Center (DAC) -- in association with Kibria Print Fair Organising Committee and Kibria Printmaking Studio, has organised a five-day (January 1-5) Kibria Print Fair 2015. DAC has been organising the fair at its galleries since 2012 to pay homage to the late abstract painter Mohammad Kibria.

Both eminent and young printmakers have exhibited their works at the fair. Besides, students from several art schools and printmaking studios are also showcasing their prints at the fair. The participating institutions are -- Department of Printmaking, Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA), University of Dhaka; Department of Printmaking, Institute of Fine Arts, University of Chittagong; Printmaking Group, Department of Fine Arts, University of Rajshahi; Printmaking Discipline, Institute of Fine Arts, University of Khulna; Department of Fine Arts, Jatiyo Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University; Printmaking Studio, Department of Fine Arts, University of Development Alternative (UODA); Safuddin Bengal Printmaking Studio; Shunno Art Space, Dhaka; Atelier '71; Cosmos Atelier '71;

Bornika Print Studio, Dhaka; Bangladesh Printmakers Association; Karkhana Art Space and Kibria Printmaking Studio, Dhaka Art Centre.

Cultural Affairs minister Asaduzzaman Noor inaugurated the programme as chief guest, while art collector and connoisseur

Udjapon Committee) and Rashid Amin (member secretary of Kibria Print Fair Udjapon Parishad) were also present at the programme. Professor Nisar Hossain, Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka emceed the event.

At the programme, internationally famous printmaker-painter

Mazumder and Palash Boran Biswas (Honourable Mention Award).

Graphic artwork, as Monirul Islam put it, includes lithograph, etching, wood engraving, silk print and digital print. There was a flourish of print in the 21st century as graphic art was easily handled by society people. One could print it easily and send it from place to place. Now even the middle class could afford it—unlike watercolour, oil and acrylic, which must be stored carefully in our muggy sub-continental weather, he said. There are a lot of graphic biennales, and Bangladesh has its participation with its awards, Monir concluded.

Going through some of the exhibits, one finds Nisar Hossain's floating bird, and the orange and brown vulture with the piercing eyes. His depiction of "Violence" has evil men hanging by the tree tops along with monkey-like creatures. Kanak Champa has two tribal women with heavy ornate, silver necklaces around the necks, with the woods of the Hilly Tribal land for the backdrop. Fareha Zeba has leaves entwined with an animal hanging by the treetop. Abul Barq Alvi has realism as a rare piece of his work. His contribution includes houses with trees with the foreground sketched in delicately.

The fair, open from 3 to 8pm every day, will continue till January 5.



Monirul Islam (2-R) receives the lifetime achievement award.

Durjay Rahman Joy was present at the programme as special guest. Eminent artist Rafiqun Nabi presided over the inauguration ceremony. Ramendu Majumdar, chairman of the trustee board of Dhaka Art Centre, Professor Abul Barq Alvi (convener of Kibria Print Fair

Monirul Islam was honoured with a lifetime achievement award for his significant contribution to the medium. Apart from this, the organisers conferred Young Printmakers Award on three artists -- Ruhul Amin Tareq (Best Award), Mohammed Fakhru Islam



## Shera Kontho Champion crowned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight months ago, Abdul Awal Tareq from Noakhali was one of the 65,000 participants of the fifth season of the FizzUp-Channel i Shera Kontho. On Friday, he became 'The One'; this year's champion of the popular TV musical competition. In a scintillating gala at Qatar's Al-Arabi stadium in front of a 40,000-strong crowd, Tareq was crowned champion, leaving behind Pranto (first runner-up), Nabila and Hridoy (joint second runners-up).

Prizes were handed to the winners by Impress Telefilm and Channel i MD Faridur Reza Sagar, Channel i News Chief Shykh Seraj, Globe Soft Drinks chairman Harun-ur



Hridoy, Nabila, Tareq and Pranto pose after announcement of results.

Rashid, Channel i directors Mukit Mazumdar Babu and Riaz Ahmed Khan, Bangladesh Ambassador to Qatar Masud Hasan Khondokar and Bangladesh Cultural Society president Wahid Bhuiyan. Judges of the competition -- Shahnaz Rahmatullah, Rezwana Chowdhury Bonnya, Samina Chowdhury and Ibrar Tipu were also present.

The seven finalists -- Nabila, Pranto, Anny, Tareq, Merry, Bibhor and Hridoy performed solo, duet and group songs at star-studded gala attended by reputed singers, film and TV actors and models. The event was presented by Sizil Mirza and directed by Izaz Khan Swapan.



## "I am a shameless actor" ... Vidya Balan

Vidya Balan calls herself a selfish actor, who doesn't care about what anyone expects of her. She might have pioneered the trend of women-centric films with her roles in "Kahaani" (2012) and "The Dirty Picture" (2011), but now she feels that the gender of the lead actor doesn't really matter anymore.

"I am grateful that people feel that I started the trend. But I believe it is really a product of the times that we live in. And because my films worked, people are showing interest and making more women-centric movies. In the past year, 'Queen', 'Highway', 'Mary Kom' and 'Mardaani' all performed well. Today, good films will work irrespective of them starring a male or a female actor in the lead," she said in an interview.

Speaking on the 'sustainability' of success in the industry, Vidya said "Success and failure don't bother me because, as an actor, that is beyond my control. Stardom and success are cyclical; I have been here (in Bollywood) long enough to realise that. I am a very hungry and shameless actor — if I find a good role, I don't think about anything else and simply sign it. I don't think about what the audience expects of me. A lot of people asked me to not do 'Shaadi Ke Side Effects', but I was excited by the role. I don't think stardom can be planned. So far, I've only followed my heart, and that has worked for me," the vivacious actress responded.

Vidya is also planning to branch out to other aspects of filmhood. When asked about it, she said "Yes, I have an idea, and I'm getting a writer to work on the film with me as I do not have the discipline to sit and write." But what is it going to be about? "It will be an emotional drama. It will be a relationship story; more realistic, but romantic. If I write anything interesting for a male actor, then why not for Shah Rukh Khan?" added Vidya.

Source: Hindustan Times

## "Tobuo Manush" enthralls Chittagong theatre-lovers

MINHAJ UDDIN, Chittagong

As soon as the drama "Tobuo Manush" ended at Chittagong Zila Shilpakala Academy on Friday, the full-house audience burst into a round of applause praising the production of Nandimukh.

The play was curtain-raiser of the nine-day Nandimukh South Asian Theatre Fest to celebrate the silver jubilee of the Chittagong-based theatre troupe.

The play revolved around the scene of a small prison chamber, where two prisoners were yearning for emancipation. The two major characters, Bijoy Dev and Chandraketu, were languishing in the prison cell with life-term imprisonment for treason against the king. Bijoy, a former teacher-turned-slave, was in the prison for more than 18 years for organising a slave movement while Chandraketu, a soldier, for more than two years for intriguing a palace coup.

Bijoy had a dream to re-organise the movement for the greater emancipation of oppressed people, while Chandraketu desired to live with his family members and lead a life of a layman, leaving his revolutionary spirit behind. So Chandraketu sought clemency from the king in a secret letter.

However, on a special occasion, the king declared emancipation to Bijoy Dev the next day. A jealous Chandraketu in the dead hours of night killed Bijoy by using poison, hoping he could get freedom instead of Bijoy. In his death-bed, Bijoy asked Chandraketu to re-organise the movement to the emancipation of the oppressed people, instead of leading an ordinary life. At daybreak, however, followers of Bijoy broke into the jail to free him, only to find him dead.

## Nandimukh South Asian Theatre Fest opens



PHOTO: STAR

The roles of Bijoy Dev and Chandraketu were portrayed by Sujit Das and Abijhit Sengupta, and were highly praised by the audience.

Abijhit Sengupta, Chief of Nandimukh, said the message of the play is that there are two classes in society: one is the oppressed, and the other the oppressor. The emancipation of the oppressed would come from struggle and those who would be in the leading position should sacrifice their life for the emancipation of the oppressed.

Earlier, the festival was inaugurated by MA Malek, editor of local daily Dainik Azadi. Ranjit Kumar Biswas, Cultural Affairs secretary, was present as chief guest. Among others, theatre actor Samir Biswas and director Kuntal Mukhopadhyay (both from India) and Aktheruzaman, secretary general of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, were present as special guests.

## IT'S TRUE!

English musician Robert Del '3D' Naja, one of the founding members of the trip-hop band Massive Attack, used to be a visual artist before he turned a musician. He initially gained notoriety as a graffiti artist and member of the Bristol collective known as "The Wild Bunch". His work has been featured in magazines and on record sleeves. Renowned British graffiti artist Banksy has cited his work as an influence. Del Naja is credited as one of the people who brought the American hip-hop and graffiti culture from the USA to Bristol in the early 1980s.



Comedy drama "Three Comrades" is set to air its landmark 100th episode tonight at 8:20pm, on Ekushey Television. Written by Shafiqur Rahman Shantanu and directed by Dipu Hazra, the play revolves around three youths who share a mess residence. Apart from Hasan Masud, Shahriar Nazim Joy and Adnan Faruq Hillol in the lead cast, it also features Dr. Inamul Haq, Nawsheen, Ohona, Shams Sumon, Golam Farida Chhonda, Lara Lotus, Shahnaz Khushi and Kochi Khondokar, among others.

## Street play to prevent domestic violence

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinapur

"Amenar Sangsar", a street play to build awareness about balanced gender equations was staged in different unions of Birampur upazila of Dinajpur recently.

Financed by Manusher Jonno Foundation, a NGO, Palli Shree, a Dinajpur-based NGO arranged and

staged the play to prevent domestic violence, gender discrimination and violence against women.

The play drew a positive response from large crowds in the upazila.

Children of Adarshagram performed in the street play, directed by Tarapada Roy, culture field trainer of Palli Shree.



Local people enjoy the street play.

PHOTO: STAR