

WHAT'S ON

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
 Artist: Jamal Ahmed  
 Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts, AJ Heights, Cha 72/17D, Progoti Shorani, Uttar Badda  
 Date: Jan 9-31  
 Time: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays)

**Art Exhibition**  
 Chronology  
 Artist: Kazi Rakib  
 Venue: Galleri Kaya  
 Date: Jan 17-30  
 Time: 11am-7:30pm

**Classical Music Recital**  
 Title: Mayar Madhuri  
 Artists: Pt. Ulhas Kashalkar, Pt. Uday Bhawalkar & Priyanka Gope  
 Venue: KIB Complex Auditorium, Krishi Khamar Road, Farmgate  
 Date: January 20; Time: 6pm

**Group Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Different Strokes  
 Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, Rd-7/A, Dhanmondi  
 Date: January 17-22  
 Time: 3-8pm  
 Inauguration: Jan 16 at 4pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 In Motion  
 Artist: Bishwajit Goswami  
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge  
 Date: Jan 11-24  
 Time: 12-8pm

NEWS bytes

Cornell begins work on solo album

Soundgarden front-man Chris Cornell has started recording a new solo album. The singer posted the news on his Twitter account, followed by a picture of a jumble of wires and cables hooked up in the studio. Cornell released his first solo album, "Euphoria Morning", back in 1999 and has two other solo discs under his belt: "Carry On" (2007) and "Scream", which he created with Timbaland in 2009. He's also released a live acoustic album titled "Songbook". As for Soundgarden, the band released a three-CD rarities collection called "Echo of Miles: Scattered Tracks Across the Path" last November and it's been reported that they'll head back into the studio to record new material this year.



IT'S TRUE!



On September 25, 2009, US rock band Creed performed a concert in Houston, Texas that was recorded, broadcast via a live internet stream, and released on December 8, 2010, as a concert film titled "Creed Live" -- the band's first live recording. The performance broke four world records, including the world record for the most cameras used at a live music event: 239. The previous holder of this record was Justin Timberlake. The performance also featured the very first usage of the "big freeze" technology -- popularised by "The Matrix" films -- in a concert environment.

# Competition on Liberation War history concludes in CTG



PHOTO: STAR

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

When visually impaired Al Amin, a student of Government School for the Blind, Chittagong, concluded his performance with a patriotic song, the audience broke into loud applause. The well appreciated song was one of the highlights of the concluding ceremony of a two-day competition on Liberation War history at Jela Shilpakala Academy in Chittagong city on Friday evening. The competition organised by Research Centre for Bangladesh Freedom Struggle and Liberation War Trust Chittagong aimed to spread knowledge about the Liberation War particularly among the younger generation. Artist Mustafa Monwar was chief guest at the concluding ceremony. Our independence

was a great achievement, he said, going on to add that his countrymen did not hesitate from sacrificing their lives for the country's freedom. He recalled that the Pakistani flag was not hoisted anywhere in pre-independent Bangladesh on March 23, 1971, that was Pakistan Day. "I was then a programme manager on television and we also did not hoist the Pakistani flag that day," he said. Monwar advised the students to learn about the history of the Liberation War and extend their gratitude to the martyrs and freedom fighters everyday for their struggle and sacrifice to achieve the independence of the country. He then taught the school students the basics of painting, "The first and foremost

rule of drawing pictures that there is no rule of drawing pictures," he said. Somnath Halder, Assistant High Commissioner of India in Chittagong, who was a special guest, urged the students to learn the authentic history of their own country. He said a record of some programmes of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra would be handed to the Research Centre for Bangladesh Freedom Struggle and Liberation War Trust Chittagong. Dr. Mahfuzur Rahman, president of the trust, presided over the programme. He urged the students to read books on the history of the Liberation War. Mustafa Monwar distributed prizes among the winners of different competitions on the history of Liberation War of Bangladesh.

## "Mega serials don't have to be boring" ...Afsana Mimi

A CORRESPONDENT

Afsana Mimi, one of the top TV actresses of the nineties, has taken a stand behind the camera in recent years, making TV dramas and serials, and foraying into filmmaking as well. The Daily Star spoke to the director on various aspects of her work: **What are you working on right now?** Mimi: I have been working with a production house. The second season of "Doll's House", now on air, can be seen every Saturday and Tuesday at 11pm on ATN Bangla. The serial is a vivid depiction of urban life, and not only portrays the hectic lifestyles of city dwellers, but also the colourful and interesting aspects of their lives. **Do you think mega serials go on for too long and consequently lose their appeal?** Mimi: If the plot, the cast and teamwork are good, then obviously mega series could carve a niche in this industry. My mega-serial "Bondhon" was very popular. Ultimately, the audience wants to watch a new daily soap to which they can relate. So mega-serials that go on for too long might be boring to some extent for TV advertisers and the channel, but to the audience it continues to have an appeal. **Do you want to make more mega serials in future?** Mimi: If I get a good audience response, then why not? That is why I made "Dolls House-2" as a sequel. I would love to make a sequel to "Offbeat", with the same cast of Jon and Tahsan. **Why aren't you acting in dramas anymore?** Mimi: I am so occupied with directorial work that I don't get enough time to do any acting. Hence I have decided to focus just on direction and the production house. **Do you have any current involvement with theatre?** Mimi: Currently, I am not doing any theatre work because of my busy schedule. However, I am interested to step into theatre again, if I get a chance.



PHOTO: STAR

## Seeing the world through watercolours

### Kazi Rakib's exhibition at Galleri Kaya

FAYZA HAQ

Kazi Rakib's exhibition of watercolours "Taravelling over the horizon" is being held at Galleri Kaya. Rakib has worked on different media, such as oil, acrylic, silk, terracotta and wood. He has also worked on glass, steel and copper sheets. Apart from these, he has worked on papier-mache, block prints and photography. Rakib, who has worked as an art teacher in Rajshahi Art College, has traveled extensively to places like Japan, Thailand, India, Pakistan and France. He has held exhibitions in China, Germany, Malaysia and Bangladesh. His dealing with art has always been unconventional. His present exhibition deals with his water colours of 30 years. Rakib says, "Working in various materials is always my practice. Whenever I find a new material I start finding its character and possibilities to bridge up a kind of friendship. From my early days, I've repeatedly worked with watercolours. I played with coloured water on dry paper. Sometimes I dripped the



colour over the wet surface and controlled its routing. One can glimpse through this exhibition of the journey with watercolour that I've had so far." "Raining", watercolour on paper -- brings in two figures outlined with black, trudging through wet streets, under a dark cobalt sky. The figures are yellow and brown while their

twirling shadows are green and ochre. "Night" brings in house tops, windows, the sky and the round, pale blue moon. All the work is done in overwhelming black and dark blue. "Dressing" has a woman with her dressing table and bed beside her, getting ready to go out. The bed has a frilled pillow and a checked counterpane. A book, a handbag and various cosmetic items are seen at the back as we study the female figure from behind bars of a window. An abstract untitled piece has squares of purple, blue, yellow and gray, outlined with black. Two dots of red relieve the monotony. A still life is done in shades of orange, pink, gray and blue, once more in an abstract manner. There is the portrait of the seated woman in green, tying her hair, and another standing one, draped in a simple orange sari with a black border. Both are done in a geometrical way, where the curves, swirls and dots bring in rhythm and harmony. The exhibition ends on January 30.



PHOTO COURTESY: BENGAL FOUNDATION

Noted sarod artiste Rajrupa Chowdhury performs Raga Malkauns on the second day (January 16) of the three-day International Architecture Conference, held on the capital's Bengal Museum grounds. Bengal Foundation organised the conference titled "Engage Dhaka", where world-renowned architects, critics and academics rubbed shoulders.



## Festival of Flying Colours ...

The final day of the Bangla month of Paus, or 'Paus Sangkranti' has since time immemorial called for celebrations all across Bengal and takes the form of 'Sakrai' in old Dhaka. Tanti Bazar, Sutrapur and other areas see big crowds on rooftops, flying thousands of kites. People of all ages and class take part in the celebrations, with music, fireworks and 'fanush'. In a city that's getting more mechanical and alienated by the day, such festivals bring back the warmth, joy and exuberance that is synonymous with Old Dhaka.

PHOTO: STAR

## Keaton tumbles at Critics' Choice stage "Birdman" sweeps seven wins

Michael Keaton rounded off a thrilling awards day - which saw him earn his first Oscar nomination - by falling off stage at the Critics' Choice Awards. The actor, who collected two best actor trophies for Birdman at Thursday's ceremony, later joked that "I took the Birdman flying thing way too far." Coming of age drama "Boyhood" walked away with the coveted best picture award. "The Lego Movie" - snubbed by Oscar voters earlier in the day - picked up the best animated feature award. Keaton, who was fine after his fall from the stage, won best actor and best actor in a comedy, while "Birdman" also collected best acting ensemble and original screenplay among its seven-trophy haul. Julianne Moore, also an Oscar nominee, picked up the best actress for "Still Alice", while JK Simmons was rewarded with a best supporting gong for "Whiplash".



The Critics' Choice Awards is a rarity in rewarding the action movie genre, with "Guardians of the Galaxy" coming out on top in the category. Oscar nominee Bradley Cooper won the award for best actor in an action movie for "American Sniper", while British star Emily Blunt took the actress title, for "Edge of Tomorrow". There was also recognition for space saga "Interstellar" in the sci-fi/horror category. Richard Linklater won best director for "Boyhood", while Patricia Arquette won best supporting actress. Ellar Coltrane won the best young actor for his role in the film, which started its 13-year long shoot when he was just five and practically grew up with the film. The best song award went to Common and John Legend for "Glory" from the civil rights drama "Selma".

Source: BBC