

WHAT'S ON
Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Jamal Ahmed
Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts,
AJ Heights, Cha 72/1/D, Progoti
Shorani, Uttara Badda
Date: Jan 9-31
Time: 10am-8pm (Closed on
Mondays)

Chobi Mela VIII
Organiser: Pathshala and Drik
Venue: Different locations in Dhaka
Date: Jan 23-Feb 5
Time: 10-8pm
CHOBIMELA VIII
INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL OF
PHOTOGRAPHY
BANGLADESH

8th International Children's Film Festival
Organiser: Bangladesh Children's Film Society
Venue: Central Public Library, BNM, BSA
Date: January 24-30; Time: 10-8pm

Made in Bangladesh
Organiser: Sadhana and Goethe Institut Dhaka
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: January 26
Time: 7pm

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

NEWS bytes

Cage to find bin Laden in Army of One



Nicolas Cage is collaborating with "Borat" director Larry Charles in the movie "Army of One" which focuses on a regular guy, who tries to find Osama bin Laden. The satire movie is loosely based on a GQ article about a Colorado man named Gary Faulkner who tries to catch Osama bin Laden.

Armed with a sword, night-vision goggles and little else, Faulkner sneaks into Pakistan and Afghanistan over a dozen times to carry out his mission, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

"Army of One" is will start rolling from March. The movie written by Scott Rothman and Rajiv Joseph is targeting a 2016 release date.

Source: THR

Chobi Mela VIII begins in Dhaka

Anwar Hossain honoured with lifetime achievement award



President Abdul Hamid (C) inaugurates Chobi Mela VIII.

SAURAV DEY
The eight edition of Chobi Mela, Asia's largest photography festival, began in Dhaka on Friday. President Abdul Hamid inaugurated the two-week event, themed this year on "Intimacy" on January 23.

The opening ceremony was held at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) in presence of distinguished guests. Asaduzzaman Noor, Cultural Affairs Minister; Liaquat Ali Lucky, BSA Director General;

James Estrin, NY Times Lens Blog Editor and Ruth Eichhorn, Director of Photography of the Geo magazine -- were present among others at the opening ceremony.

Chobi Mela VIII honoured legendary Bangladesh photographer, Anwar Hossain with lifetime achievement award.

Throughout his illustrious career as a photographer, cinematographer and a teacher, Anwar Hossain has made an extraordinary contribution in the field of photography in Bangladesh. President Abdul Hamid handed over the award to the photogra-

pher at the opening ceremony. Earlier in the day, a rally was brought out from National Press Club to BSA with participation of organisers, guests, and spectators from all walks of life.

Soon after the opening, a large crowd gathered at the main venue, BSA's National Art Plaza Gallery, to catch a glimpse of the fest. BSA is hosting the highest number of exhibitions, including Magnum photographer Larry Towell's "The Mennonites", Paolo Patrizi's "Migrant Sex Workers", and Shirin Neshat's "Turbulent". The venue also hosts the highest number of exhibi-

tions by Bangladeshi photographers. What makes this eighth edition stand out and stay much ahead of its past editions is its curatorial excellence. The way curators selected and treated the images and exhibitions is unprecedented in Bangladesh. The gallery wore a new look as the arrangement photographs and installations reached a new level of perfection.

This edition of Chobi Mela's theme challenges the definition of intimacy, and unfolds a new horizon of personal spaces and belongings.

PHOTO COURTESY: DRIK

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Spirit of Annapurna held at Cosmos-2

FAYZA HAQ

The vast cross section of participants at last month's 15-day art camp steered by Rezaun Nabi, made for an exhilarating and enjoyable experience. Seeing the paintings lifted one's spirits and took us to a world of dreams and colours.

Sohana Shaareen's entrée for the exhibit were the forest trees with towering mountains in the distance. The variation of greens -- from jade to emerald, was mixed with pale leafy green and merged with earthy colours. It is not often that an artist looks with such a poetic vision at Nature. Sohona, in fact, believes in taking a respite in nature, away from the suffocating concrete jungle of the city. In man-made pleasure spots like amusement parks, things remain carefully structured and one does not feel the free as one does at Annapurna mountain range, where the artist had been to, to escape from civilization, to "be near the hauntingly beautiful Nepalese landscape" -- so close to Bangladesh.

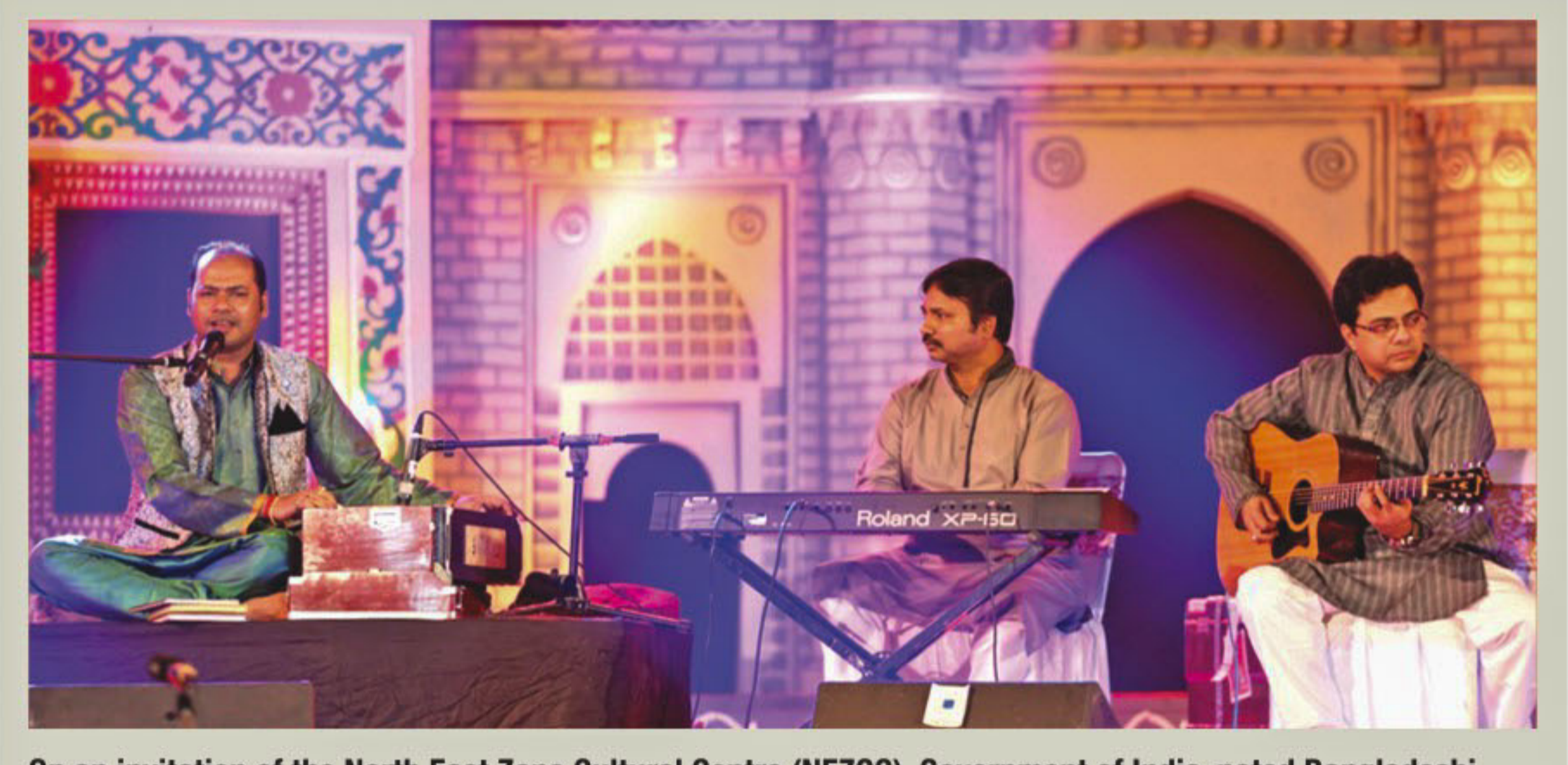
Rezaun Nabi painted his temple with its arched entrée in grey, its houses near at hand in a frieze of dust brown, with a priest near at hand or a hint of a visitor, in knee length attire.

Afroza Jamil Konka has a beautiful woman with aquiline features, flower in hair, large earrings and a parrot resting peacefully on her shoulders. She has painted crows for the occasion, with a powerful impact -- bringing memories of Rana Plaza and the thousands who needlessly lost their lives



IT'S TRUE

Julia Roberts has English, German, Swedish, Irish, Scottish, and Welsh ancestry. Before dreaming of becoming an actress, she wanted to be a veterinarian. However, Julia studied journalism although she never completed her degree and eventually started acting because of her brother Eric Roberts. Her films have grossed more than \$2 billion at the US box office, making her the biggest female movie star of all time. In 2004, archaeologists called a 9,000-year old female skeleton excavated in Bulgaria "Julia Roberts", because of its perfect teeth. They said that woman would have had a perfect smile -- just like the actress.



On an invitation of the North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), Government of India, noted Bangladeshi Ghazal singer Alope Kumar Sen (L) performed at three Ghazal programmes held at Dimapur, Nagaland, India recently. Sen, a versatile classical vocalist and ghazal singer, was accompanied by Sakil Mohammad Sabir Uddin (Guitar), Ruptanu Das Sharma (Keyboard), Sajal Kumar Saha (Octopad) and Biplab Kanti Sharma (Tabla). The event, titled "Maati Ke Rang Festival" was organised Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

due to the callousness of the rich and powerful. The chiaroscuro effect of the composition is interesting.

The unusual display of dogs with wings, with large teeth and claws of prehistoric creatures make Golam Faruq Shawpan's creation dreamlike. The creature's eyes are a brilliant red, causing more terror for the onlooker. This black and yellow and red painting is dramatic.

The surrealistic creation of Mahababul Islam Babu, with a stampeding yellow horse and the checkerboard with a melange of men and horses in black is another breathtaking creation in Annapurna. In the backdrop, there is more checkerboard effect for the roof. You can almost hear the pounding of the horse's gallops.

The delicately growing brilliant red flowers by Fahmida Khatun speak of a spirited dash of creation. The flowers happen to grow on a looped piece of earth. Behind are flowers and impression of more blossoms. The piece speaks of rare exited adventure and brings in the freshness of the air around the creation.

Bipasha Hayat's painting of yellow ochre, burnt sienna images in a sea of pale colour is mind-boggling. Maqsuda Iqbal Nipa's red and gold creation remains a mystery and miracle. It is certainly awe-inspiring. Nazia Andaleeb Preema's painting shows ink and white blossoms amidst the wilderness to be found at the foot of the mountains.

Such work is surely worth preserving for times to come.



Lara Dutta to play art curator in "Fitooor"

Actress Lara Dutta will be seen playing a special role in the Bollywood adaptation of Charles Dickens' novel "Great Expectations". She will be seen in the role of an art curator in "Fitooor" that also casts Aditya Roy Kapur and Katrina Kaif in the leads.

"Fitooor" is currently being shot in Kashmir and stars Rekha, Aditi Rao Hydari, Akshay Oberoi, Talat Aziz, and Ajay Devgn in a cameo among others. The film is directed by Abhishek Kapoor.

Source: Bollywood Hungama

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