

Fundraising Exhibition  
Title: Pray For Nepal  
Organiser: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts  
Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts  
Date: May 17-24  
Time: 10am-8pm

Pray for Nepal

Solo Painting Exhibition  
Title: Notation, Reconstructed  
Artist: Kazi Ghayasuddin  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts  
Date: April 18-May 26  
Time: 12pm-8pm

SAARC Film Festival  
2015  
Organizer: SAARC Film Journalist  
Forum- Bangladesh  
Venue: Fine Art Auditorium, BSA  
Date: May 13- 19th, Time: 5pm

SAARC  
FILM FESTIVAL 2015  
May 13 to 19

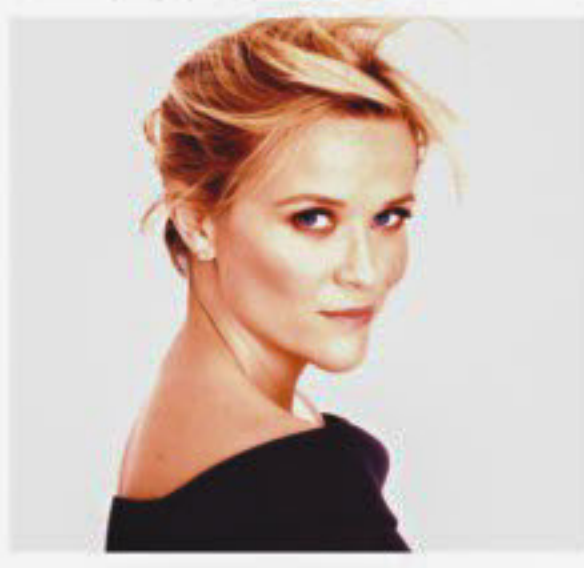
Group Art Exhibition  
Title: Soft, Reflections  
Venue: Gallery Cosmos  
Date: May 15- June 14  
Time: 11am-10pm

Group Masks Exhibition  
Title: Mukh O Mukhosh-6  
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, Rd-16,  
Sector 4, Uttara  
Day: May 10-20  
Time: 11am-8pm

MUKHOSH-6

# NEWS bytes

## Witherspoon set for "Pale Blue Dot"



Fox Searchlight and Reese Witherspoon are teaming up again after the success of "Wild", as the studio has acquired the original spec script for Carl Sagan's classic "Pale Blue Dot", with Witherspoon attached to star.

Written by Brian C Brown and Elliott DiGuseppi, who penned the Black List spec "Uncle Shelby", the story follows a successful female astronaut who, after coming back home from a mission in space, starts to unravel when confronted by her seemingly perfect American dream life.

The story explores the theory that astronauts who spend long periods of time staring at the Earth from space begin to lose their sense of reality when they return home.

Witherspoon will produce along with Bruna Papandrea through their Pacific Standard production banner.

Source: **Variety**

# IT'S TRUE!

US actor Gregory Peck's parents got divorced when he was five years old. An only child, he was sent to live with his grandmother, and felt like he never had a stable childhood. His fondest memories are of his grandmother taking him to the movies every week and of his dog, which followed him everywhere. He studied pre-med at UC-



Berkeley and, while there, got bitten by the acting bug and decided to change the focus of his studies. He enrolled in the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York and debuted on Broadway after graduation.

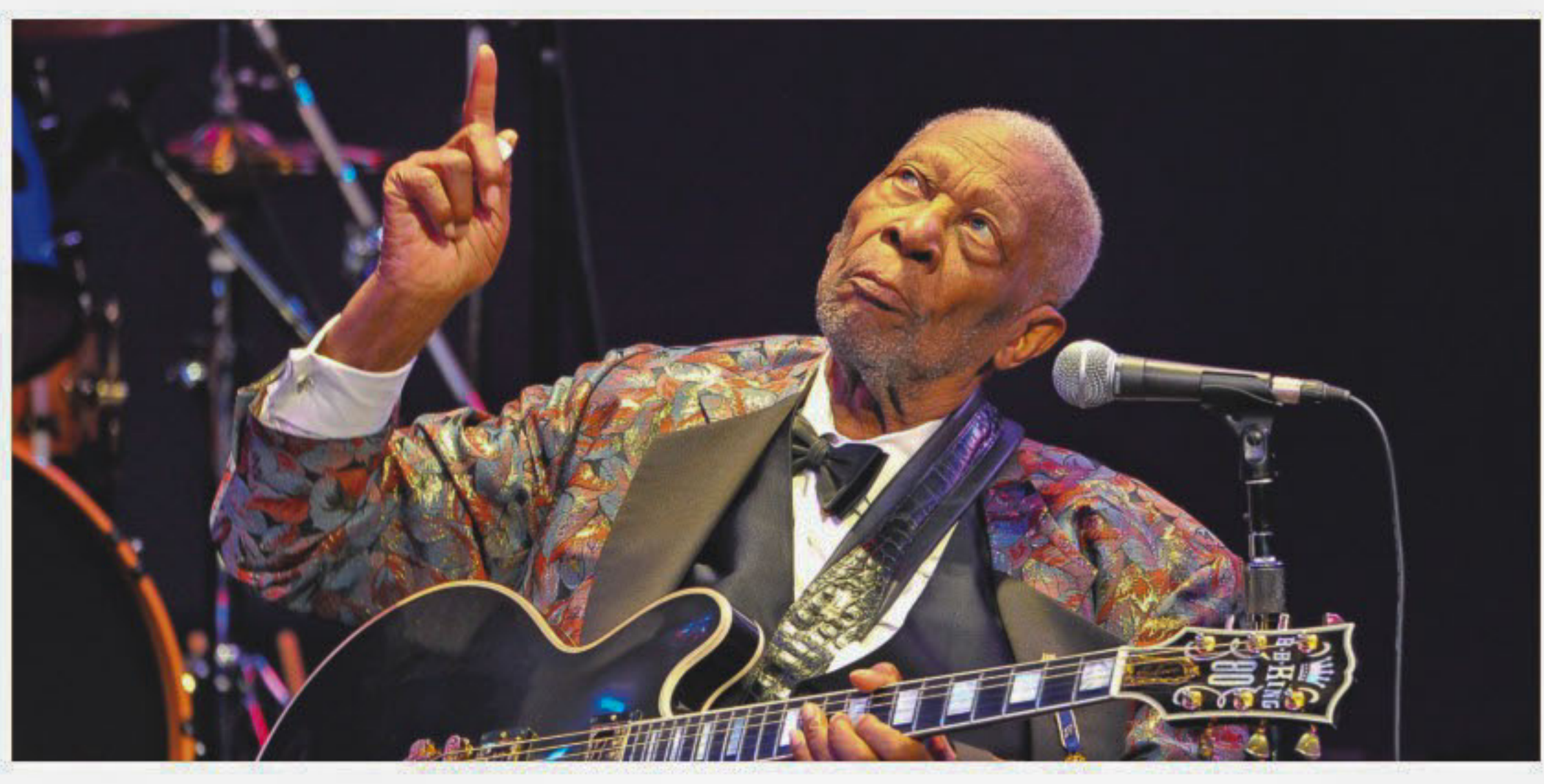
# IN TRANSITION: BB KING (1925-2015) A BLUES LEGEND

BB King, the larger-than-life guitarist and singer who helped popularise electric blues and brought it to audiences for more than six decades, died Thursday in Las Vegas. He was 89. King, who was diagnosed with diabetes nearly 30 years ago, was hospitalised last month due to dehydration. Last October, he was forced to cancel eight tour dates for dehydration and exhaustion. His attorney, Brent Bryson, confirmed his death to the Associated Press.

Into his late eighties, King toured the world year-round as the unrivaled ambassador of the blues. His indelible style – a throaty, throttling vocal howl paired with a ringing single-note vibrato sound played on his electric guitar named Lucille – defined the genre. He won 15 Grammy Awards and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987.

"He is without a doubt the most important artiste the blues has ever produced," Eric Clapton wrote in his 2008 biography, "and the most humble and genuine man you would ever wish to meet."

He was born Riley B. King in Itta Bena, Mississippi, on September 16th, 1925. His young parents divorced when he was five and his mother died when he was nine, leaving him to be raised by his maternal grandmother. King dropped out



of school in tenth grade and earned a living picking cotton for a penny a pound and singing gospel songs on a local street corner. In 1948, King was living in Memphis working as a tractor driver when he landed a gig on a local radio show that led to a job at a juke joint playing six nights a week. There, he met artistes like Louis Jordan and T-Bone Walker, where he heard electric guitar for the first time.

King scored his first Number One hit in 1951 with "3 O' Clock Blues". Dozens more followed in the coming decades, including 1954's "You Upset Me Baby" and 1959's "Sweet Sixteen".

In the 60s, the success of blues-influenced British bands

helped broaden King's appeal. He began to perform with acts like the Rolling Stones and Eric Clapton. Later that decade, King moved to New York. The hits that followed included 1968's "Paid the Cost to Be the Boss", 1969's cutting social commentary "Why I Sing the Blues" and "Thrill Is Gone".

King's style – marked by his signature ringing, vibrato notes – became a hallmark of blues playing, imitated by everyone from Clapton to Buddy Guy. Also, some of King's greatest recordings are live albums, including "Live in Japan" and Live at "Cook County Jail", which showcase his masterful delivery and playful, old school

showmanship.

A 1998 Rolling Stone feature estimated that King had played more than 15,000 concerts. He spent more than 65 years on the road, playing more than 300 shows a year until cutting back to around a 100 during the last decade.

"I've missed 18 days in 65 years. Sometimes guys will just take off; I've never done that. If I'm booked to play, I go and play," he told Rolling Stone in 2013.

He added, "The crowds treat me like my last name. When I go onstage people usually stand up, I never ask them to, but they do. They stand up and they don't know how much I appreciate it

Source: **Rolling Stone**

# Bulbul Chowdhury's 61st death anniversary today

Today (May 17) marks the 61st death anniversary of Nrityaguru Bulbul Chowdhury. Born Rashid Ahmed Chowdhury on January 1, 1919, he is regarded as a pioneer of modern dance in Bangladesh, as a founding figure of dance among the conservative Muslim community.

Born in Chittagong, Chowdhury earned Bachelor of Arts degree from the Scottish Church College in 1938, and Master of Arts from the University of Calcutta in 1943.

During the course of his secondary and graduate education in Calcutta, he came in contact with reputed artistes like sarodia Santosh Chandra, composer Timir Baran Bhattacharya, and dancers Uday Shankar and Sadhana Bose, who spurred his desire to excel as a dancer. His big break came in 1936 when he performed with danseuse Sadhana Bose in the Tagore dance-drama "Kach O Devajani".

In January 1940, Chowdhury came to Dhaka with his troupe and performed a number of dance dramas. Back in Calcutta, he established Calcutta Culture Centre in 1941. During the World War II, he moved to Chittagong and worked at different places from 1943 to 1947. During 1950-1952, he performed in dance concerts in the unified Pakistan. In 1953, with his troupe, he visited Europe in countries including Britain, Ireland, Holland, Belgium and France. Chowdhury was declared as the National Dancer of Pakistan in 1949. By situating dance as part of the Mughal tradition, he challenged conservative Muslim attitudes towards dance, and helped in making dance gain social respectability and popularity.

Chowdhury was married to Afroza Bulbul Chowdhury, a dancer and actress. On this day in 1954, Chowdhury passed away in Kolkata (erstwhile Calcutta), at the mere age of 35. After his death, Afroza founded the Bulbul Institute of Culture in Karachi and the Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA) in Dhaka, to uphold his legacy.

Compiled by Correspondent



**"I learnt many things from Mithun" ...Tushti**

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Popular actress-model Shamima Tushti recently acted in "Hason Raja" with Bollywood superstar Mithun Chakraborty. The celebrity talked to The Daily Star about her work experience with the Indian superstar.

**What stage is "Hason Raja" at?**  
Tushti: Shooting is complete, and dubbing is underway.

**You worked with Mithun Chakraborty in the project, tell us about it.**  
Tushti: He played the title role in the film. It is a great achievement for me to work with a great artiste like him.

**Tell us about your role in the movie.**  
Tushti: I play a double role in "Hason Raja". One of the characters is named Kushum and is other a dancer. It was a bit of a challenge portraying two characters simultaneously.

**What was it like meeting Mithun for the first time?**  
Tushti: It was like a dream. Frankly, I was very nervous the first time but he very quickly bowled us over with his charm.

**What was your experience of working with the legendary Indian actor?**  
Tushti: I learnt that an artiste must have presence of mind. As an

artiste, he is very helpful. We completed rehearsals before starting shooting. To me, he himself is a school of acting. In the process, I learnt many things from him.

**Where the film was shot?**  
Tushti: Sunamganj, Kolkata and Bangalore.

**You also work on stage?**  
Tushti: I've been acting in theatre for 21 years but now I am busy with TV plays and films. My first troupe was People's Little Theatre and then Loko Natya Dal.

**What was your debut film?**  
Tushti: "Nondito Naroke", and then "Lal Sabuj" and "Sapno Dana". "Hason Raja" is my fourth project.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

# 50th staging of "Khona" today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BotTala has been a known name to theatre enthusiasts of the capital for a good few years now, for their striking plays with strong socially-relevant theatre productions and street plays. Perhaps their most-acclaimed work for the stage is "Khona". Written by Samina Luthfa – an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Dhaka University, and directed by Mohammad Ali Haider, the play is the story of Khona, an iconic character in Bangla folklore – who passed on a vol-

ume of agricultural knowledge, popularly called Khona's Sayings ("Khona Bochon"), from generation to generation as a part of the oral tradition among preliterate farmers.

The landmark 50th staging of the popular play will be held today at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy today, including some surprises for the spectators. The cast of Khona will be accorded special honours. The event will also serve as a reunion of former and current members of the troupe, and will have eminent thespians in presence.



Salman Khan, who was sentenced to five years' imprisonment by a Mumbai sessions court in the 2002 hit-and-run case which was later suspended by the Bombay high court, is shooting in Kashmir for five days, for Kabir Khan's "Bajrangi Bhaijaan", opposite Kareena Kapoor.

The superstar reached Srinagar on Monday after the Mumbai high court suspended his sentence. "Bajrangi Bhaijaan" is one of the two Salman Khan films which are in the last schedule of shooting. Film trade experts had said that about Rs 200 crore was riding on Salman Khan.

Salman, who is on a 40-day schedule in the valley, had left for Mumbai last week leaving a 300-member crew waiting for his

PHOTO: TWITTER

# Salman Khan resumes shooting in Kashmir

# Documentary on Soumitra screened

A documentary on noted Indian actor, elocutionist and poet Soumitra Chatterjee was screened at the Dhaka Club on Wednesday. Masud Karim directed the film titled "Krishnokoli", says a press release.

Professor Emeritus Dr. Anisuzzaman chaired the programme, where Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu was chief guest.

A number of veteran actors, cultural personalities and journalists spoke at the programme, including ATM Shamsuzzaman, Pijush Bandopadhyay, Hasan Shahriar and Nader Chowdhury. They recalled their memories of the actor, and shed light on his life and works.

Professor Anisuzzaman speaks at the event.



# Understanding Rabindra Nrityadhara with Sharmila Banerjee

Lecture-demonstration  
at Arts Precinct tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Foundation is presenting the fifth episode of the monthly series, "Understanding Dance", with this month's demonstration based on Rabindra Nrityadhara or Tagorean Dance. The lecture and demonstration will take place tomorrow, May 17 at 7pm at the Daily Star- Bengal Arts Precinct, Farmgate.

The event comes a week after Rabindranath's 154th birth anniversary, of



the series which is curated and presented by celebrated artiste, choreographer and educator, Sharmila Banerjee. It will feature audio-visual content, spoken explanations and practical demonstrations of Rabindranath's idea and conception of dance, blending elements from several Indian classical dance styles, as well as many other folk and foreign dance forms to emerge into a style very apt to express the emotions of Bangladeshes.

The event is open for all.