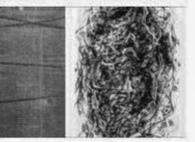


WHAT'S ON

Group Exhibition
 Title: ERA
 Venue: Gallery 21, Dhanmondi
 Date: Oct 30-Nov 09
 Time: 12-8pm



Art Exhibition
 Artist: Farzana Rahman Bobby & Palash Biswas
 Venue: Kalakendra: 1/11, Iqbal Road (3rd floor)
 Date: October 13 - November 8
 Time: 5-9pm



Solo Exhibition
 Chromatic Delusions
 Artist: Maksudat Iqbal Nipa
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge
 Date: Oct 31-Nov 21
 Time: 12-8pm



Jazz & Blues Fest Dhaka
 Organiser: Blues Communications
 Venue: Army Museum Field
 Date: Nov 5-7
 Time: 6pm-midnight



Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Three Generations
 Venue: Athena Gallery, Uttara Badda
 Date: October 17 - Nov 7
 Time: 5:30pm



NEWS bytes



Witherspoon feted by American Cinematheque

The American Cinematheque honored Oscar-winning actress Reese Witherspoon and DreamWorks Animation honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg at the organisation's annual fundraising gala Friday night at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza. Witherspoon received the American Cinematheque Award, reserved for an extraordinary artist currently making a significant contribution to the art of the Moving Picture. Recent honorees have included Matthew McConaughey, Jerry Bruckheimer, Ben Stiller, Robert Downey Jr., Matt Damon and Samuel L Jackson.

In addition to her award-winning work in front of the camera, Witherspoon has taken bold strides spearheading projects like her own starring vehicle "Wild" and David Fincher's "Gone Girl" last year, as well as the comedy "Hot Pursuit" with Sofia Vergara and the upcoming television series "Big Little Lies" with Nicole Kidman. Praises galore for both her on-screen prowess and strong feminist spirit from colleagues McConaughey, Jennifer Aniston, director Alexander Payne, Kate Hudson and Jennifer Garner. Witherspoon is the first woman to win the American Cinematheque Award since Julia Roberts in 2007, and only the fifth to receive it in the gala's 29-year history.

Source: Variety

Bangladeshi women peacekeepers in focus
 New documentary makes waves around the world

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Thousands of miles away from the comfort of their homes, a group of Bangladeshi women police officers defy stereotypes and face harsh realities of becoming foot soldiers in a United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Haiti in the Caribbean region.

All this is documented by two Academy and Emmy award-winning women directors: Geeta Gandbhir of India and Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy from Pakistan -- on Bangladeshi police officers who were part of the UN peacekeeping mission in Haiti. The documentary, "A Journey of a Thousand Miles: Peacekeepers" was screened at the Mumbai Association of Moving Images Festival, after its world premiere to a packed audience at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) earlier this year.

The documentary follows a unit of 160 Bangladeshi women who, between June 2013 and July 2014, joined the United Nations Stabilizing Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). They form one of the world's first all-female, predominantly Muslim peacekeeping units. The women -- young and old, married and single, mothers and daughters-- come from every corner of Bangladesh.

The cameras follow these women from their recruitment to the unit, to pre-

deployment training, and throughout their yearlong tour of duty in Haiti. They confront extreme poverty, crumbling healthcare systems, violent anti-government protests and opposition to their very presence.

"The film focuses on three of women in this unit as they grapple with the harsh realities of becoming foot soldiers in a United Nations Peacekeeping Mission. Ultimately, however, the women rise to the occasion, providing essential community support to the region," said the co-directors.



While the Bangladeshi women immerse themselves in their duties, intimate scenes of the families they love and left behind provide a stark contrast throughout the film.

"We witness first hand their return home and the subsequent reintegration into family life -- a process that is at once a relief and a profound challenge," they added.

"A Journey of a Thousand Miles" is a bold look at the women who make up this global force, going beyond the statistics and news

stories to look at who these officers are at individual level," said Geeta and Sharmeen.

The directors said they wanted to make a film about Muslim women who defy stereotypes. "These Bangladeshi women are the breadwinners who go out from their traditional communities to leave the men at home with the children. It's a role for women in that region that we haven't heard much about and these women do it effectively. It's important for everyone to see

that," according to Geeta and Sharmeen.

It took three years to make the film. "We were with them at least a week or week and a half every month over the course of their time there (in Haiti). It was the same when they were in Bangladesh."

The documentary's executive producer Irfan Izhar said it was not an easy task as in this kind of shoots, the safety of the crew is very important and travelling to different places with full crew is also challenging. He said the World Premiere at the Toronto Festival was a great experience as "both our shows were full and we got lots of appreciation and people like the film."

Asad Faruqi is the director of photography, music is by Kishon Khan and Maya Mumma is the editor of the documentary, which will now travel to a documentary festival in New York.



Homage to Mubinnul Azim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today (November 1) marks the 40th death anniversary of renowned painter Mubinnul Azim, considered as a pioneer in the Bangladeshi art scene. He and his fellow contemporaries had great contributions in experimental paintings. Some of them combined local motifs and various western forms.

Azim died in 1975, when he was at the peak of his artistic career. He produced many paintings, watercolours and sketches in the course of his short career span. He graduated in fine arts from Bangladesh College of Arts and Crafts (now Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University) in 1955. A hardworking and reflective introvert, Azim spent a significant part of his career in Karachi -- a hub for artists, poets, writers and novelists at the time. Besides immersing himself in painting, Azim taught at an art institute in Karachi. However, he always kept in touch with his contemporaries in Dhaka.

Azim returned to Dhaka permanently after the Liberation War and devoted himself to painting. He held a solo exhibition in 1973 at Desh Art Gallery. After his death, two exhibitions of his works were held at Dhaka Club (in 1976) and Shilpakala Academy (in 1998).

Azim set out as a naturalist and figurative painter. In the early stages of his career, nature played a pivotal role in his works. Along with natural elements, colour was a predominant aspect of his works. Azim was a socially aware painter. In 1952, he was involved in the Language Movement. He produced many posters and paintings on the Language Movement in that period.

Today Azim's paintings, with their unique lucid qualities, have lost none of their appeal. His canvases are marked with pigment and fluidity. He used a limited number of elements in his canvas. A good interaction between use of space and objects always carried an individual and aesthetic trademark in his works.

The artist continued his quest for novelty and fresh elements in his paintings. He took to using oil paints in a style reminiscent of action painting -- quite akin to the works of Jackson Pollock.

With his demise, the country lost a great painter. The saving grace is that many proud collectors are carefully preserving his works.

When melody reigns supreme
 Samarjit Roy performs at IGCC

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Melody is an inseparable part of our life. Raga-based adhunik songs recorded by Hemanta Mukhopadhyay, Manna Dey, Akhil Bandhu Ghosh, Jatileswar Mukhopadhyay, Pintu Bhattacharya, Satinath Mukherjee, Shyamal Mitra, Talat Mahmood and other legendary singers equally evoke our nostalgic senses as it did in the past.

Accomplished artiste Samarjit Roy revisited the music of the golden era through performing in a solo soiree held on October 30 at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) auditorium. The artiste set off the soiree with the song "Saradin Tomaye Bhebe". The houseful audience was seemingly delighted to the presentation of others songs -- "Ami Eto Je Tomaye", "Bodhua Amar Chokh-e", "Boshey Achhi Potho Cheye", "Olr O Kotha Shuney",

"Se Jeno Ashena Amar Dwar-e", "Jeno Kichhu Mon-e Korona", "Ek Tajmahal Goro Hridoye" and "Jodi Kagojey Lekho Naam".

Fans of Manna Dey frequently requested the featured singer to perform songs recorded by the legend. On request from the audience, Samarjit immaculately performed "O Chand Shamley Rekho". This correspondent too requested him to sing a Raga Rageshree-based "Obhiman-e Chole Jeo Na", which he performed with lovely improvisations. The artiste also chose to perform popular songs like "Ami Aj Akasher Moto Ekela", "Khud Jante Ichchhe Korey" and "Sundori Go Dohai". Eminent music connoisseurs were present, as Samarjit dedicated one of his performances "Payelia Jhankar Mori", a khayal bandish set on Raga Puria Dhanashree to Sadya Afreen Mallick.

Samarjit also sang some Hindi



The artiste sings at the event.

classics and Ghazals, including "Aaj Janey Ki Jid Na Karo" and "Honho Se Chhulo Tum", originally recorded by Jagjit Singh.

The gifted singer wrapped up his performance with a Bhairavi thumri "Balam Morey Chhor Chale".

Pallab Sanyal on tabla, Ruptanu Das Sharma on keyboard, Richard Kishore on guitar, Firoz Khan on sitar and Alamgir on octopad marvelously accompanied the singer.

Samarjit Roy, a versatile vocalist and composer, has got a degree in Hindustani Classical Vocal Music from Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, New Delhi with an ICCR scholarship. He is a disciple of Padmashri Pt. Madhup Mudgal and Padmashri Pt. Ajoy Chakravarty. He topped in the final examination of "Sangeet Visharad" from Akhil Bharatiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal, Mumbai and has received several awards.

Artistes pay tribute to ALMAS ALI

Staff Correspondent

To pay tribute to recently deceased violin player Almas Ali, a memorial meet was arranged at Chhayanaud Auditorium in the capital on October 30 evening.

Renowned artistes Chanchal Khan, Khairul Anam Shakil and Sajed Akbar jointly organised the programme to commemorate the late violinist.

Apart from the three organisers, noted singers Salma Akbar, Yasmin

Mushtari and Salauddin Ahmed were also present at the programme. They walked down memory lane to recall their times with the legendary violin player.

Instrumentalist Alauddin Mia, Gazi Abdul Hakim, Almas Ali's brother Dewan Alamgir, and director of Bangladesh Betar Kamal Ahmed spoke at the event, among others.

The programme ended with the choral rendition of "Dao Shurjo Dao Dhoirjo".



Khairul Anam Shakil (2-R) and others pay respect to the late artiste.



"CHA-ER CHUMUKE" on ATN Bangla

A CORRESPONDENT

Art and culture related programme "Cha-er Chumuke" will air today at 7:30am on ATN Bangla. Journalist and fiction writer Shah Alam Shazu will be present as guest in today's episode of the show.

Shazu will shed light on his career as a journalist, and talk on his books and his preparation for the upcoming Ekushey Book Fair. Also he will talk about television plays and artistes of the recent times.

Hosted by Imtu and Faiza Khan, the programme has been produced by Mohammad Mostak Hossain.

"I don't compartmentalise myself" ... Anushka Sharma

She has played a singer, a journalist, a wedding planner and a dance enthusiast in her onscreen journey in Bollywood. Actress Anushka Sharma says she doesn't believe in putting herself in brackets and wants to explore the cinematic world as much as possible.

Off the screen, the actress also donned the producer's hat with "NH10" this year, but Anushka notes that acting holds a special place in her life and will continue to reign over her heart.

"Acting has always been my passion and will remain so. I enjoyed playing the dual role - of an actor and producer. As a viewer, I really want to watch author-backed stories and there is something amazing about thrillers, the way it captivates your imagination...It was an interesting experience and a completely unexplored territory for me," Anushka said in a statement.

"Also, I don't compartmentalise myself. I really wanted 'NH10' to be made and being associated with it eased the entire process," she added.

After garnering rave responses, Navjeet Singh-directed "NH10" -- which tells the story of a young couple whose road trip goes awry after a run-in with a group of violent criminals -- had its TV premiere on 8pictures yesterday.

"I'm glad to know that the movie is going to touch base with a large number of people now, since it's hitting television screens. Also, the movie was certified 'A' in theatres, but now with a little tweaking, everybody can watch it in their homes. 'NH10' is very close to my heart for various reasons and I am very excited," she said.

Source: IANS

