

Bengal Classical Music Festival

Organiser: Bengal Foundation

Venue: Army Stadium, Dhaka

Date: Nov 27-Dec 1

Time: 7pm-5am

Solo Art Exhibition

Title: How Do I Rent a Planet

Artist: Razib Datta

Venue: Kalakendra

Date: Nov 20- Dec 10

Time: 5-9pm

1st International Indigenous Theatre Fest

Organiser: Sampreeti Natyotsab Parshad

Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Date: Nov 19-26, Time: 4:30pm

5th Tone Int'l Art Biennale 2015

Organiser: Tone Art Society of Bangladesh

Venues: Galley Chittrak and Athena Gallery of Fine Arts

Date: Nov 13-30; Time: 10am-8pm

Solo Exhibition

Title: Rokeya

Artist: Rokeya Sultana

Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi.

Date: Nov 17-Dec 5

Time: 12-8pm

NEWS

bytes

“Riddick” franchise set to expand

Things are about to be ‘Riddick-ulous’, as it looks like there are going to be a few more Chronicles to add to the list. Vin Diesel recently dropped a big bomb on fans of the “Chronicles of Riddick” film series and has offi-



cially confirmed that there will be a fourth feature installment named “Furia”, AND a TV series being developed to boot. The announcement is a potentially exciting addition to a franchise which, as of now, has been in the film world for a whopping 15 years. Diesel’s character Riddick was first introduced in a lesser-known film “Pitch Black”, a sleeper hit written and directed by David Twohy. Franchise fans should be happy to learn that Twohy will indeed be back for “Furia”, as he’s currently penning the screenplay, according to Diesel. The upcoming TV project is titled “Merc City”, with no word on whether a network is involved, or when a pilot might be produced, although Diesel did give a hint about the subject matter. Rather than revolving around the titular character, the series will expand the universe of the franchise.

Source: **Cinemablend**

Hunger Games finale aims for \$102m weekend

The final chapter in the “Hunger Games” saga, “Mockingjay — Part 2,” is on track to hit a \$102 million bullseye in its opening weekend, based on Friday receipts. The fourth installment in the Jennifer Lawrence-led series hit a total of \$46 million Friday at 4,175 locations, handily topping all other titles at the box office. The Lionsgate release started strong in Thursday night previews, generating \$16 million. Earlier estimates had pegged the actioner’s three-day total around \$110 million. This marks the lowest opening day in the “Hunger Games” franchise. The three earlier “Hunger Games” pics performed mightily at the box office, combining for \$2.3 billion in worldwide grosses. “Mockingjay — Part 1” opened to \$121.9 million domestically following the first film’s \$152.5 million launch and “Catching Fire’s” \$158.1 million kickoff. Should it hit its expected mark, “Mockingjay — Part 2” will be the year’s fifth-



biggest US opening, behind “Jurassic World”, “Avengers: Age of Ultron”, “Furious 7” and “Minions”. “Spectre”, the 24th James Bond film, had the second-highest Friday total, pulling in \$4.3 million on its way to a weekend total around \$14 million. The Daniel Craig starrer should cross \$150 million in domestic receipts by the end of the weekend.. Sony’s “The Night Before”, starring Seth Rogen, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Anthony Mackie, will finish the weekend in fourth place, behind Fox’s “Peanuts”. STX’s “The Secret in Their Eyes” pulled in \$2.3 million Friday night, a soft opening despite the star power of Julia Roberts, Nicole Kidman and Chiwetel Ejiofor.

Source: **Variety**



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Director Giasuddin Selim took the film industry by storm when critics and the box office alike applauded his film “Monpura”. Now, six years after the release of “Monpura”, Giasuddin Selim has finalised his new film “Swapnojal”.

The film is currently in the pre-production stage and shooting is likely to begin last week of December. Selim has already finalised the cast; however he is yet to rope in the lead female actress.

Fazlur Rahman Babu, Iresh Zaker, Shilpi

Sarkar Opu, Wahida Mallick Jolly and Prosun Azad will play key roles in the film. Debutant Yash Rohan will play the male lead.

About the film Giasuddin Selim said, “Yash Rohan is the son of Shilpi Sarkar Opu and Naresh Bhuiyan. I have been thinking of casting him in my film for the last couple of years. I have groomed him and also given him initial training.”

“The film will be mainly shot in Chandpur and Kolkata as the story demands these locations. ‘Swapnojal’ will encircle a family which was forced to leave Chandpur

and settle in Kolkata,” Giasuddin Selim added.

Selim also informed that “Swapnojal” is a love story set in the ‘90s. However, there will be social messages too.

“Our audiences love stories and I will try to present them a good story,” he added.

Arnob will direct music for the film, while singers Luva Nahid Chowdhury, Laisa Ahmed Lisa, Krishnakali and Sani will voice the songs.

The film will be made under Bangladesh-India joint production. Bengal Creations will produce the film from Bangladesh.

Swapnojal in making

Giasuddin Selim talks about his new film

Setting the big stage

Blues Comm chief talks about BCMF15 preparations

FAHMIM FERDOUS

With less than a week to go for Bengal Classical Music Festival 2015 (BCMF15), the biggest music festival Bangladesh hosts, event organisers Blues Communications are working full throttle. Its CEO, Farhadul Islam, spoke to The Daily Star about the preparations and background work of the mega event.



This festival has grown steadily in audience numbers over the last three years. What kind of turnout are you expecting, and how are you preparing to manage them? Farhad: The interest of the audience has been great in the previous editions, and this time is no different. But more than the numbers alone, we want to make sure that the ambiance is conducive to experiencing classical music, and everyone’s safety is ensured. We have closed our registration at about the 50,000 mark, which we think is an optimum number. Also, we are doing everything we can for audience’s comfort, including ample amenities. For example, we will have a restroom section entirely for our female attendees, and we will also be closing the entry gates after 1am to ensure safety and a hassle-free experience. Tell us a little about the background preparation work that goes into the festival.

Farhad: Our preparations begin nearly a year in advance, so for this edition we started work shortly after last year’s festival ended. We recruit a huge number of youths as brand promoters, artiste management and other responsibilities. Most of them have worked with us in previous editions, to the extent that some of those in charge of artiste management are in closer contact with our returning artistes than we are. They are mostly university students with a passion for the work. We look for people genuinely driven to contribute to the festival, because otherwise it can be very tiring to work in a five-night festival.

In terms of logistics, what stage are the preparations at? Farhad: So far, we’re in a good space. All the artistes’ visas and flight tickets are done, and we are taking our equipment and other logistics to the grounds today (yesterday). We will begin building it up from Monday. The sound and light engineers are also set to arrive on the same day, so the setup and run-through are complete in time.



Kolkata Art Camp 2015 concludes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Starting from November 20, the three-day Kolkata Art Camp 2015, concluded yesterday (November 22) at the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission premises in Kolkata, India. Jointly organised by Bangladesh Deputy High Commission, Kolkata and Bengal Foundation, Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor inaugurated the art camp. Eminent artists Rafiqun

Nabi and Jogen Chowdhury, Deputy High Commissioner Zokey Ahad and Chairman of Bengal Foundation Abul Khair spoke at the event.

A total of 23 artists (10 from Bangladesh and 13 from India) took part in the art camp. The Bangladeshi artists were Syed Abul Barq Alvi, Rafiqun Nabi, Monirul Islam, Mohammad Eunus, Ranjit Das, Kalidas Karmakar, Mohammad Iqbal, Sheikh Afzal, Wakilur Rahman, and

Bishwajit Goswami. Their Indian counterparts included Ashok Bhowmick, Amitava Sengupta, Dhiraj Choudhury, Ganesh Haloi, Jogen Chowdhury, Jaya Ganguly, Jayashree Chakravarty, Lalu Prasad Shaw, Mahzabin Mazumdar, Pidi Dhumal, Rini Dhumal, Sanat Kar and Shiva Prasad Kar Chowdhury.

The art camp was organised as homage to Subir Choudhury, one of the trustees of Bengal Foundation.

Raghunath Chakraborty passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted artist Raghunath Chakraborty passed away yesterday early morning at 3:30am at BIRDEM hospital in the capital due to brain hemorrhage. He was 47. His mortal remains were taken to the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka at noon.

Raghunath Chakraborty’s works look familiar to most people. His pata-chitra style paintings, revolving around folk culture, were exhibited at the Drik Gallery. A proposed exhibition showcasing his works at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts is in the pipeline.

Raghunath Chakraborty was born in Gaibandha in 1969. He earned his B.Com in 1991. His subjects are simple, rural, clear unambiguous images. The paintings are contained within the borders of the drawings. He belongs to the same school of



painting as Shambhu Acharya, who was his inspiration.

Raghunath never underwent any academic training in painting, but was rather inspired by his mother’s ‘alpana’ work out on the front yard, and said he drew lessons from the works of Jamini Roy and Abanindranath Tagore.

He used a variety of materials: oyster shell powder, gum and wood apple are just some of things he used to prepare his paint.

Apart from his paintings, Raghunath worked for many popular theatre productions like “Behular Bhashan”, “Chaka”, “Champak Nagarer Upokatha”, “Mohajoner Nao”, “Lal Jamin” and “Dokkhina Sundori” as artistic designer and director.



Mohammad Rabin (R) receives the grand prize.

PHOTO: STAR

Tone Int'l Miniature Art Biennale in the capital

ZAHANGIR ALOM

In an endeavour to bring back the golden era of art, the 5th Tone International Miniature Art Biennale 2015 is now simultaneously on at two galleries -- Gallery Chittrak and Athena Gallery of Fine Arts in the capital. The biennale has been dedicated to master artist Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, one of whose works is also on display at the exhibit.

Organised by Tone Art Society of Bangladesh (TASB), the biennale is featuring miniature arts in diverse media by 324 artists from 27 countries -- Bangladesh, Spain, Italy, Netherlands, Finland, Ireland, USA, UK, Denmark, Canada, Poland, Cyprus, Armenia, Slovakia, Serbia, India, China, Hong Kong, South Africa, Singapore, Qatar, Lebanon, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar and Pakistan.

The opening and award-giving ceremonies took place at Gallery Chittrak on November 13 and at Athena Gallery of Fine Arts the next day.

A jury of Mustafa Monwar, Rafiqun Nabi and Samarjit Roy Chowdhury selected 20 artists for

awards in several categories. Bangladeshi artist Mohammad Rabin bagged the grand award while Raymonde Chavoor (USA), Md. Alauddin (Bangladesh), Kamruzzaman (Bangladesh), Istiak Akono Sakib (Bangladesh), Arafat



Karim (Bangladesh), Jayanta Sarkar John (Bangladesh), Md. Abdul Momen Milton (Bangladesh) and Sabha Sumaiya (Bangladesh) won in various categories.

Bangladeshi artists Lutfun Nahar, Palash Uddin Khalifa, AH Dhali

Tomal, Shyamal Chandra Sarkar and Fedeya Shahnaz -- along with a South African artist Leonora De Lange received Tone Glow Award each. Sharmila Aravind from India bagged the Best SAARC Country Award while Anetta Stylianou received the Best Foreign Artist Award. Md. Rashed Alam (Bangladesh) achieved Tone Chittrak Creative Award while Amit Nandi (Bangladesh) and Eva Choung -- Fux (Spain) bagged Tone Athena Creative Awards.

“Through the Tone Art Biennale, we hope to raise the voice of contemporary Asian Miniature Art. Every five years there is a World Miniature Art exhibition. The next one will be held in South Africa in 2016. Our dream is to host this prestigious event in Bangladesh,” said Khalid Mahmood Mithu, president of TASB.

Artworks by renowned guest artists including, Kazi Abdul Baset, Mustafa Manwar, Rafiqun Nabi, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Hamiduzzaman Khan, Kanak Champa Chakma and Khalid Mahmood Mithu are at the exhibition.

The exhibition, open from 10am to 8pm daily, will end on November 30.