

WHAT'S ON

Group Exhibition
Art For Life
Organiser: Labaid Foundation
Venue: National Museum
Date: Dec 18-23; Time: 12-8pm



Solo Photography Exhibition
Title: Nature
Artist: Simeen Hussain Rimi
Venue: Gallery Twenty One
Date: Dec 19-Jan 2
Time: 12-8pm



Solo Exhibition
Microtears
Artist: Dilara Begum Jolly
Venue: Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct
Date: Dec 12-Jan 9; Time: 12-7pm



Bangladesh Film Festival 2015
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Art Gallery Auditorium, BSA
Date: Dec 10-24; Time: 6pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Kalidas Karmakar
Title: Alluvial Realization
Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts, Uttara Badda
Date: Dec 4-22
Time: 10am-8pm




ALIF LAILA performs at IUB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) hosted a solo classical music concert on December 20 at IUB Auditorium in Dhaka. Noted sitarist Alif Laila performed in the concert while Rupak Bhattacharjee was on tabla.

Alif Laila, a watercolourist as well, loves to depict the desired mood of a raga on her sitar. She has performed internationally and gained tremendous appreciation.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of IUB Rashed Chowdhury; Former Chairman of Board of Trustee and Governing Council, IUB Towhid Samad and Vice Chancellor IUB, Professor Omar Rahman were present at the occasion, among other distinguished personalities.

Alif Laila set off her recital with playing Raga Hameer, elaborating alap, jod and a vilambit teentaal composition. She later performed a madhyalaya teentaal composition along with a jhala set on Raga Jog. Recital of a Kirwani dhun followed. The artiste wrapped up her solo soiree with presenting a madhyalaya teentaal composition coupled with a dhun based on Raga Bhairavi.

Alif Laila was initially trained in Indian Classical Music (sitar) in Dhaka under the tutelage of late Ustad Mir Qasem Khan. She attended the College of Fine Arts in Dhaka, where she graduated in 1981 and received several awards for her watercolour painting.

In 1988, she moved to the USA and continued her sitar practice with taking lessons from Partha Chatterjee, Krishna Bhatt and Kushal Das. Alif Laila performed concerts at places such as The Kennedy Center, The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, The Smithsonian in Washington DC, The Purcell Room, London, ITC-SRA, Kolkata, India. She also teaches sitar in the University of Maryland.

APARNA back at her old stomping grounds

A CORRESPONDENT

Aparna Ghosh, the darling of Bangladeshi TV and art-house film -- is taking a back step from the glitz and glam of the camera, to return to her old stomping grounds -- the theatre stages of Chittagong.



Renowned Chittagong-based theatre troupe Nandikar will celebrate its 41st anniversary from December 24-27 at Theatre Institute Chittagong, where the troupe will stage four of its productions directed by Alok Ghosh -- the team leader of Nandikar and Aparna's father. Aparna will act in plays "Paap Punno" and "Gyan Brikker Phol" at the festival, on December 24 and 26 respectively.

Aparna, a National Film Award winner (for Best Supporting Actress in "Mrityka Maya"), had a solid career in theatre before she drew attention of the TV and film audience. The actress has been involved with Nandikar since 2003, and is a regular face on stage. With her commitment still strong to her troupe even after she moved to Dhaka, Aparna didn't associate with any troupes here.

About her passion in theatre, Aparna said, "Nandikar has played a big role in shaping me as an actress. I feel great that the troupe always gives me new opportunities and I try my best to continue on stage with them."

Aparna has acted in a number of Nandikar productions including "Leo Tolstoy", "Court Martial" and "Goraye Golod".

Bringing Nature into Art

French artist Erwan Peron exhibits in Chittagong

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

In 1999, Erwan Peron was badly shaken by an oil spill off the Atlantic coast in France. Erika, a fuel oil laden tanker, sank in Atlantic Ocean near the coast of France. The oil spill from the tanker washed up a huge coastline of the country, causing deaths of thousands of marine birds and animals.

The incident left a deep impression on the artist, and made him choose painting and sculpture as his medium to talk about nature. "After the incident, all the marine animals and plants turned into black and dead statues. I could not describe how nature had been destroyed," said the artist.

"My previous works told the stories about the incident before the audience," said Peron, who recently took part in an exhibition titled "Make Your Own Universe Open to the World" in the port city.

On December 10, Alliance Française de Chittagong organised the exhibition in its auditorium where 10 artists from three organisations- Jog Alternative Art Space, Porapara Space for Artists and Institute of Fine Arts of Chittagong University-- took part with their creative paintings and installations. CU's Institute of Fine Arts Director Nasima Akhter inaugurated the exhibition.

Erwan Peron, a student of ISBA, the Higher Institute of Fine Arts, Besancon, had shifted to east coast in France with his family from west coast surrounded by Atlantic Ocean.



The artist at work at the exhibition. PHOTO: STAR

The landscapes of the new place were dramatically different, which inspired him to discover the nature of other countries like Bangladesh, said the artist.

At the exhibition, Erwan's art piece "The Weak will be the First" a work on mixed media using plaster, watercolour and acrylic, describes the difference of the scenic beauty of the new place.

Raphael Jaeger, director of Alliance Française de Chittagong, told The Daily Star that the rich heritage and culture of the region inspired the artist to come to the country.

Informing that Erwan Peron and Chittagong's artiste Apu Dhar's joint video art performance titled "Melting Existence" has toured different cities in France on the occasion of Paris COP21 Summit, the Alliance Française de Chittagong Director said the performance has focused on how people's unwanted interference are destroying nature.

"I think this kind of interchange of arts would make bridge with people of the two countries", added Raphael.

Praising the works of the artists of Chittagong, Erwan said that he was really fascinated to see the style how they (artistes of the region) work.

He also expressed his gratitude to Alliance Française de Chittagong to give him opportunity to visit the beautiful country.

"I have learnt many things from the country. The friendliness of the people, Tagore's songs and Chittagong's Patenga beach have fascinated me. The spicy food of the region is also special. The opportunity to know the people and the country's abundance of nature, will remain ever fresh in my mind," said Erwan.



TV WATCH "Ujan Ganger Naiya" on ATN Bangla

A CORRESPONDENT

The third season of drama serial "Ujan Ganger Naiya" will go on air on ATN Bangla on every Tuesday and Wednesday at 8:40pm starting from December 22.

The new season, set in the fictional village of Ishanpur, weaves some of the characters from its previous seasons into a whole new scenario. The story charts a year of the life of a coastal fishing community. Series creator Anisul Hoque has created a world where humour, drama and sadness underline an authentic portrayal of rural life.

The series has been directed jointly by Bashar Georgis and Sameer Ahmed, while the cast includes Riaz, Tarin, Mousumi Hamid, Dolly Zahur, Nazmul Huda Bachchu, Shatabdi Wadud, Jyotika Jyoti, Lutfur Rahman George, Rawnak Hasan, Maznun Mizan, Ashok Bepari, Tawsif, Nadia and Shamima Islam Tusty among others.

The series is produced by BBC Media Action and is a part of the BBC Agomoni project.

NEWS bytes

Monumental \$238M debut for "Star Wars"



"Star Wars: The Force Awakens" micronized box office records this weekend, racking up a monumental \$238 million opening and justifying the Walt Disney Company's \$4 billion purchase of Lucasfilm.

Director JJ Abrams' nostalgic take on the series of space operas George Lucas created four decades ago was a hit with critics and fans, earning strong reviews. Its opening soared past the previous high-water mark of \$208.8 million established last summer by "Jurassic World".

Globally, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" scored the second-biggest opening in history, earning \$517 million worldwide, behind only "Jurassic World's" \$525 million bow. However, unlike "Jurassic World", the seventh film in the "Star Wars" franchise did not have the benefit of showing in China on its inaugural weekend.

The success of "Star Wars" enabled the industry to reach a new high-water mark for a weekend, with total receipts passing the \$300 million barrier for the first time in history.

"I HAVE SIGNED NO FILMS FOR 2016" ...DEEPIKA PADUKONE

After a busy 2015, Deepika Padukone says that is yet to sign a film for the next year as the actress has not found anything exciting so far.

"Expect nothing because I have signed no films for 2016," Deepika told PTI in an interview.

When asked about not having any film despite being the top actress at the moment, she said, "I have reached a stage where I don't have to do work to keep myself busy. I don't want to do films just for the heck of making announcements. I don't need to do a film to keep my calendar busy. I have read a lot of scripts, but I have not been excited about anything that I have read. I am okay with it."

In 2015, Deepika did three films -- "Piku" with megastar Amitabh Bachchan and Irrfan Khan, "Tamasha" with former beau Ranbir Kapoor and Sanjay Leela Bhansali's epic "Bajirao Mastani", opposite Ranveer Singh.

"The most challenging part is doing three films simultaneously. The films, the characters and the directors are different. It is not the ideal way of working as I would like to do one film at a time and dedicate the time to that film," she said.

At the same time, the

"Piku" actress said that she will not leave any interesting projects. "I am not going to let go films that I am excited about. But if that happens, then you have to balance that out. I am happy with the way this year has gone. I am very proud of 'Piku' and 'Tamasha' and I am topping it up with 'Bajirao Mastani'," she said.

In the past, Deepika also rejected some plum offers, including "Dhoom: 3", "Shuddhi" among others.

"Rejected is a harsh word. Actors are never in a position to reject anything. Actors are offered films, if you feel connected enough you do it and if you don't feel connected, you don't do it. If you don't do it, somebody else would do it. I don't regret it (not doing films)," she said.



Source: Hindustan Times

The Daily Star  

CELEBRATING LIFE

District Festivals

CONCERT. PHOTO EXHIBITION



This event is free for all. Registration is a prerequisite. visit: www.imdhaka.com/celebratinglifebd

We will be at

Khulna University of Engineering & Technology

Date: December 23, 2015

Photography Exhibition
Time: 10 AM to 4 PM

CONCERT
Performance by **ARNOB & Friends**
Time: 4 PM to 6 PM

For information regarding Celebrating Life, please visit www.celebratinglifebd.com

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