

WHAT'S ON
Bangladesh Cultural Festival
 Venue: Nandanmancha, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: Jan 1-18
 Time: 4:30pm daily



Solo Exhibition
 Manification of the Human
 Artist: Md. Mainuddin
 Venue: La Galerie, AFD
 Date: Jan 2-18; Time: 3-9pm



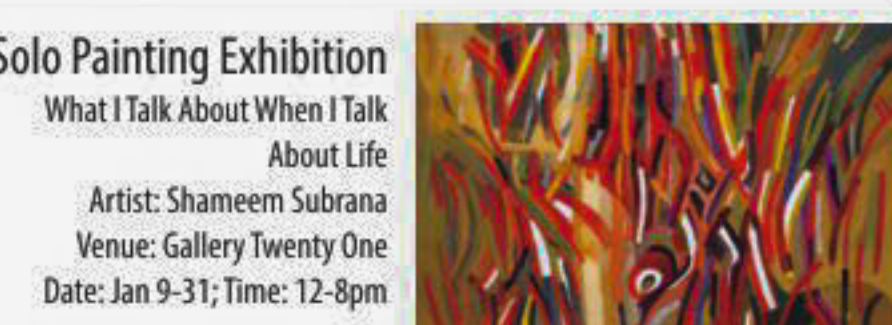
Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: "Less is More" by Asem Ansari
 Venue: Gallery Chitrag, Rd-6, H-4, Dhanmondi
 Date: January 15-31
 Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
 Alluvial Soul- Soil-Symbol
 Artist: Kalidas Karmakar
 Venue: Nalinikanta Bhattacharya Gallery, Bangladesh National Museum
 Date: Jan 3-24
 Time: 9:30am-7pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
 What I Talk About When I Talk About Life
 Artist: Shameem Subrana
 Venue: Gallery Twenty One
 Date: Jan 9-31; Time: 12-8pm




OF COLOURS, AESTHETIC CONTEMPLATIONS AND NATURE

Gulshan Hossain's 17th solo opens today

ZAHANGIR ALOM
 Renowned visual artist Gulshan Hossain's 17th solo art exhibition begins today (January 16) at Athena Gallery of Fine Arts in the capital. The opening ceremony of the exhibition, titled "Reflections of Nature and Life", will take place at 5.30pm. Anis A Khan, Managing Director & CEO, Mutual Trust Bank Limited, will inaugurate the exhibition as Chief Guest. Eminent Artist-Professor Rafiqun Nabi will be present as guest of honour and Waliur Rahman, Chairman of Bangladesh Heritage Foundation & National Security will be present as special guests. Over the years, the artist has developed a style of abstraction by exploring variations with different materials and techniques. Nature and its elements reign supreme in her newly developed abstract-realistic works. "Sound of Water", a big work in acrylic, showcases the hilly landscape incorporating the murmuring sounds of waterfalls, the serene cerulean blue lake, small abodes on the lap on

hills and the presence of life. A sense of vastness is noticeable in the celestial grain work. The artist's depiction of romanticism revolves around the music of silence; rain-drenched fresh greenery and vegetation; the illusion of moon and the mystery moon-beam; human figures, relationship and alienation, couples in a dreamy idyll; boats and fishermen. She has a penchant for using impressionistic colours, especially diverse tonal gradations of blue and green. The texture, depth, volume, colour balance, geometric and multilayered compositions, perspectives and a mystic game of light and shades say it all. As a sensitive artist, Gulshan not only renders her sensuousness into canvas while serenading the affluent nature and universe, but also reveals her heartache for the adverse consequences on our earth due to greenhouse effects, ecological imbalance and environment pollution. She has a great empathy for victims, especially women. She has portrayed the burnt, pale and painful faces of acid victims and women workers who became victims of

the Tazrin Garments tragedy. "I have done several painting-based installations. The pain of suffering women or the faces of victims haunt me and I try to depict them true to my imagination and experiences," the artist says. Gulshan is a multi-award winner, including Grand Award at the 16th Asian Art Biennial, Bangladesh; Bengal Foundation Award at the 20th National Art Exhibition, Bangladesh; Grand Award at International Art Symposium Autumn Inspiration Penza, Russia and more. She has 16 solo exhibitions in UK, Belgium, India and Bangladesh to her credit, and has participated in numerous group shows in around the world. Gulshan Hossain is also an Assistant Professor of MFA Department of Painting at UODA. The exhibition will remain open from January 16 to February daily from 10 am to 8pm.

Shabdabali Int'l theatre festival opens in Barisal

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal
 A weeklong International theatre festival opened in Barisal on the occasion of 25th anniversary of Shabdabali Studio Theatre yesterday. Nasiruddin Yousuff, Bangladesh chapter president of International Theatre Institute, inaugurated the festival. Saharana Begum, chairman of the festival committee presided over the inaugural ceremony that featured a rally, discussion, dance and drama at Barisal Ashwini Kumar Hall premises. Among others, Prof. Ziaul Haque, chairman, Barisal education Board and Advocate Talukdar Md. Yunus, AL lawmaker, also attended the inaugural ceremony. Eight dramas from troupes of Dhaka,

Jessore, Barisal of Bangladesh and two from Kolkata and Bihar of India will perform on the stages of Shabdabali Studio Theatre and Ashwini Kumar Hall at 5:30pm and 7:15pm everyday from January 16 to 22. Today's plays at the festival are "The Uncertain World" by Gentlemen Pantomime at Aswani Kumar Hall and "Amanush" by Bangla Theatre at Shabdali Studio Theatre. The Fact Art and Cultural Society - Bihar, Alternative Living Theatre - Kolkata and Natyadhara, Shobdo Natyacharcha Kendra, Prachyanat and Loko Natyodal from Dhaka, Biborton from Jessore, Panchasree Group Theatre and Sahabdabali Group theatre from Barisal will be performing at the festival. The Daily Star, also celebrating its 25th anniversary, is a partner of the event.



"Phirey Chol Mati'r Taney" on Channel i

A CORRESPONDENT
 Popular campaign of Channel i agricultural TV show "Hridoye Mati O Manush" (planned, directed and hosted by Shykh Seraj), titled "Phirey Chol Mati'r Taney" - returns to the channel tonight, at 9:50pm. Since 2011, private

university students participate in the programme, during the Boro and Amon crop cycles. This year, for the first time, two public universities - Dhaka University (Mass Communication and Journalism department) and Sher-e Bangla Agricultural University, are taking part in it. Two students each take part in all the works carried out by agricultural labourers in the episode.

BHABNA in historical TV play

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Popular TV actress Bhabna has just completed shooting for a special TV play, being produced for upcoming February 21. Based on prolific writer Ahmed Sofa's "Ongkar", the play is being directed jointly by Hasan Shikdar and Shourju Dipto Surjo. Bhabna plays a speech-impaired girl in the play, named Parul. In the tumultuous days of the 1969 mass-movement, she gazes out of her window when processions pass by. When the country is liberated in 1971 and victory processions are carried out, Parul finds her voice. About her role, Bhabna said "It was a challenge to play a non-verbal character. I read the novel to prepare for the role. It's a classic." Intekhab Dinar plays a central role in the play, named Kalam. "Ongkar" will air on ntv on February 21, International Mother Language Day.



STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Lakshyapar has just accomplished its first cycle of journey towards expansion of classical music all around. Since 2009, each year taken as a musical note, Lakshyapar has struck ni, the 7th note -- with its 7th annual classical music conference. Held on January 6-7 at NCL Convention Centre, Narayanganj, the programmes were dedicated to Pandit Jnanprakash Ghosh. The first day was reserved for a classical vocal competition to find out the six best boys and girls for Haradhan-Sukhen

Scholarships. This year, a new event was added - an interesting exhibition of live musical instruments ranging from Bangladeshi folk to sub-continental classical genres. An audience of at least five hundred people was welcomed with a group performance of raga Madhubanti. It was followed by the Lakshyapar Lifetime Achievement Award-2015 ceremony. This part began with the screening of "Taree Khuje Berai", a documentary on veteran sehnai player from Madaripur, Hiranna Chandra Das who was conferred the honour. The traditionally ritualistic part was highly praised by Deputy Commissioner

Anisur Rahman Mian and Abdul Hai, the Administrator of the district. Then began the two-part nightlong sessions of classical music. As usual, the recitals began with this year's 'artiste of the future', Bengal Scholar Abhijit Kundu who sang his heart out through a kheyal rendition of raga Yaman. Sheuli Bhattacharya played raga Jog on violin. The second and last session brought on stage Amzad Hossain from Kolkata. The sitarist, who has blessings from no other than Ustad Vilayat Khan, played raga Darbari. Vocal artiste from Naogaon, Bipul Chatterjee, performed raga Behag.

Sarodiya Arnab Bhattacharya's (from Kolkata) raga Ahir Bhairav was followed by a raga Todi on santoor by Shuddhashil Chatterjee. Fakir Suman's vocal performance on raga Lalit and a short wrapper on raga Bhairavi took the conference to an end. Sabuj Ahmed, Mir Naqibul Islam and Prashanta Bhowmik on tabla and Tinku Shil on harmonium accompanied the performers. Three online radio stations Radio Lakshyapar, Radio Narayanganj and Radio Nree took the programme live to a stunning audience of about a hundred thousand.

Lakshyapar into the second Octave

Seventh classical conference held in Narayanganj



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Biggest snubs at Oscar Nominations

With such a crowded field for this year's Oscars race, there were bound to be big curveballs from the Academy Awards nominations on Thursday morning. But the most disappointing outcome is that, for the second consecutive year, all 20 of the acting nominees are white. "The Revenant" led all films with 12 nominations, closely followed by 10 nominations for "Mad Max: Fury Road." Here are the biggest snubs from this year's nominations. **"Star Wars: The Force Awakens"** Nominating the most gigantic movie in history (with a domestic box office tally of \$820 million and growing) for best picture would have ensured that the Oscars telecast received a big boost in viewership. But the latest installment of "Star Wars" only picked up five nods in the technical categories like sound and editing. **Ridley Scott, "The Martian"** Scott was expected to win the best director category this year for his ambitious space epic starring Matt Damon. But like Ben Affleck for "Argo", the director's branch of the Academy overlooked him. However, he is nominated for best producer since "The Martian" was recognised in the best picture race. **Idris Elba, "Beasts of No Nation"** Elba was expected to be included in the best supporting actor category for portraying the commandant in Cary Fukunaga's drama set in West Africa. Although "Beasts" received a SAG ensemble nomination, and had strong support from within the



Idris Elba in "Beasts of No Nation"; he was one of the bigger actors of colour left out of the nods.

Academy's actors' branch, it failed to pick up any Oscar nominations. **Aaron Sorkin, "Steve Jobs"** After a Golden Globe win and a WGA nod, Sorkin seemed a sure thing for a nomination for his "Steve Jobs" screenplay. Instead, he was shut out. **Michael Keaton, "Spotlight"** All the actors in "Spotlight" were placed in the best supporting actor categories - and while that meant good news for Mark Ruffalo and Rachel McAdams, who were both nominated, Michael Keaton was left out. **Johnny Depp, "Black Mass"** Depp was an early favourite in this year's Oscars race for playing James 'Whitey' Bulger in the Warner Bros. gangster drama. But he might have peaked too soon, and his reluctance to campaign made it difficult for Oscar voters to remember the

performance. **Will Smith, "Concussion"** Smith stretched - and adopted a Nigerian accent - to play Dr. Bennet Omalu, who discovered a link between NFL players and permanent brain trauma. Although he hosted many Academy Q&As to support the Sony Pictures release, the lukewarm reviews for the film may have hurt him. **Jacob Tremblay, "Room"** "Room" performed surprisingly well - with nominations for best picture, best director (Lenny Abrahamson) and best actress (Brie Larson) - but it's hard to understand how the Academy failed to recognise the film's central performance by astonishing newcomer Jacob Tremblay. If he had been nominated as best actor, he would have been the youngest actor ever to appear in the category - tying Jackie

Cooper (1931's "Skipper") - at age 9. **Michael B Jordan, "Creed"** At 28, Michael B Jordan is one of Hollywood's most promising young stars. The Academy overlooked his breakthrough role in 2013's "Fruitvale Station", and also didn't give him any love for "Creed", despite the film's \$105 million box office take and an impressive physical transformation to play a professional boxer in the "Rocky" reboot. **Kristen Stewart, "Clouds of Sils Maria"** The critically acclaimed role from the "Twilight" star made her the first American actress to take home the Cesar Award (the French equivalent of the Oscar), and nabbed her a New York Film Critics Circle prize. But in the end, not enough Oscar voters saw this small drama directed by Olivier Assayas that premiered at Cannes nearly two years ago. **Nearly Mirren, "Trumbo" and "Woman in Gold"** The beloved actress landed Golden Globe and SAG Award nods for "Trumbo" and a SAG nod for "Woman in Gold", but found herself empty-handed at the Academy nods. **Todd Haynes, "Carol"** After "Far From Heaven" and this year's "Carol", it is criminal that Haynes has yet to be Oscar nominated in the Oscars best director category. His lack of a nomination from the DGA earlier this week was a bad omen. Source: Variety