

WHAT'S ON

Photography Exhibition
Marking 91st Birth Anniversary of Tajuddin Ahmad
Venue: Gallery Twenty One, 751, Satmasjid Rd, Dhanmondi
Date: Jul 23-Aug 22, Time: 12noon-8pm



Open Studio
Marking Aminul Islam Young Artist Award 2015
Venue: Gyanapas Abdur Razzaq Bidyapeeth, H-60, Rd-7/A, Dhanmondi
Date: Jul 23-Aug 12, Time: 11am-7pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: "Water Journey" by Artist Karu Titas
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-7, Rd-13 (New), Dhanmondi
Date: Jul 29- Aug 12
Time: 12noon-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Proshanto Karmakar
Venue: Bay's Gallery, Radius Centre, 57, Gulshan-1
Date: Jul 30-Aug 30
Time: 12am-8pm



Group Art Exhibition
Title: "Shilper Aloye Bangabandhu"
Venue: Gallery 3, National Art Gallery Plaza, BSA
Date: August 1-31
Time: 11am-8pm





ZAHANGIR ALOM

Noted artist Ranjit Das' works reveal a powerful interplay of figures and space. Devising figures, visages and various other forms traces his passionate journey towards experimentation. Melancholia, conflict and incoherent emotional states are often tinted in his paintings. Das is the proponent of an unrivalled style and expression that merges geometric shapes with organic themes.

Das started painting in the '70s – an era when our art and literature was experiencing a renaissance. His canvas delves into the woes and bliss of the common people, clearly projecting their dreams and hopes.

Das closely observed the metamorphosis of socio-political and economic conditions. As an exponent of modernism, he has carved a niche in the country's history of art. It is apparent that his working style gradually changed after he did his Masters from MS University, Baroda, India in 1981. He was a direct disciple of famous Indian artist KG Subramanyan.

Das also started learning Rabindra Sangeet at Chhayanaunt in the '70s. He continued training there for three years and took part in Borshoboron programme at Ramna Batomul, rendering choral and solo songs. He fondly remembers Tagore songs of various Parjaya especially Prakriti and Prem Parjaya songs including, "Bohu Juger Opar Theke Ashar Elo", "Ami

Mingling geometry with organic themes

In conversation with Ranjit Das



Chanchal Hey", "Biroho Modhur Holo Aji", "Pran Bhoirye Trisha Horiye" and "Tumi Robe Nirobe".

"The influence of Tagore is in our veins. The enduring culture of Bangalees has been established and nurtured by

Tagore, Nazrul, Jibanananda Das, Jasimuddin and others. Tagore pioneered modern literary practice. Our practice of art and lifestyle are greatly inspired by his boundless creative genius. Tagore portrayed painting in his

songs and poems while Jibanananda did the same in his poetry," said Das.

Elaborating the language of art together with the imageries visualised in the poems and songs of Tagore, Das asserted, "Tagore's heredity, family ambience, talent, wisdom and spiritualism are so vast that we hardly understand his paintings. The mysterious use of colours, offerings of devotion, romanticism and softness in presentation have made his paintings unique. Tagore's creation of melodies and portrayal of paintings traces many ups and downs and subtle senses of his life. The idyllic landscapes of Shantiniketan and Shilaidaha inspired him greatly. Above all, Tagore eschewed conservativeness in his creative ventures; that's why, he surpassed all and emerged as Bishwakobi (the poet of the world)."

"Art, thoughts, society, the doctrine of development and facets of human lives are being transformed. The newer trends of artistic expressions, created by present-day artists, attract me. On the other hand, I feel a close attachment to the cultural roots and heritage of my country. My paintings speak of the harmony between the two. I am very fond of natural and organic elements, which I try to incorporate into my paintings. I also try to retain softness and the aesthetic beauty in my works. Our way of living and the natural environment are inseparably connected; like we want to return home for shelter; again, we come out of home to get in touch with nature," concluded the artist.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Fahmida Nabi flies high

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Award winning singer Fahmida Nabi lives and breathes music, and now her fine craft will take her to Australia as a guest on the panel of Bangladesh Idol Association. When asked what kind of songs she would like her listeners abroad to hear, she responded with "Lukochori" is a song that everyone wants to hear, and it's one of my favourites as well.

The artiste's journey will take her to Australia's capital Sydney, and there are possibilities of her stopping by Melbourne. Upon her return, the singer will be occupied for the rest of the year with stage performances and live TV programmes, as well as her upcoming album titled "Shadakalo".

"Shadakalo", composed by Shaan, will be launched this year by G-Series. Fahmida Nabi commented, "The album has garnered positive response so far, and I hope that listeners will enjoy it once it reaches the markets."

Reese Witherspoon in talks to star in "Home Again"

Reese Witherspoon is in talks to star in the indie comedy "Home Again," Variety has learned.

Hallie Meyers-Shyer, the daughter of director Nancy Meyers, is writing and directing the film.

Meyers is producing alongside Black Bicycle Entertainment's Erika Olde, who is also financing the movie. Nancy Meyers played a major part in getting the script in Witherspoon's hands.

Based on a script by Meyers-Shyer, "Home Again" follows a recently separated mother of two whose new life in Los Angeles is overturned when she decides to take in three young, charismatic guys.

Although no distributor is attached at this time, insiders say production is eyed for the fall. The film has been in the works for some time with Rose Byrne attached to star at one point.

Witherspoon has recently focused on producing more material for herself like the upcoming HBO limited series "Big Little Lies," which also stars Nicole Kidman and is expected to be released next year on HBO. As of now, Witherspoon is only on board to star in "Home Again," and will not be producing.

Witherspoon is represented by CAA (Creative Artists Agency) and LBI Entertainment.

MadRiver Pictures introduced the film to international buyers in Cannes. CAA is representing the North American rights and also Black Bicycle and Nancy Meyers.



Source: Variety

Ustad Zakir Hussain: Hands that speak

KAVITA, New Delhi

World renowned tabla player Ustad Zakir Hussain, also dubbed "Encyclopedia of the Tabla", has regaled audiences around the world. He was initiated into the intricacies of rhythm by his legendary father table maestro Ustad Alla Rakha when he was two days old. The primary "lessons" continued till he was two years old.

And so a child prodigy appeared on the music scene.

At the age of seven, he gave his first public performance, started touring at 12 years and went on to become one of the world's greatest tabla artists, world renowned Grammy award winning percussionist and world musician.

On his home turf he was the youngest percussionist to win civilian awards Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri from the Indian Government.

Fame didn't come easy. As a young boy of seven in Mumbai, tabla practice with his father Ustad Alla Rakha meant gruelling lessons from two at night to six in the morning.

The sleepy young boy would then make his way to school. The best



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

reward was when he would get thrown out of class for practicing on the benches, recalled Hussain in an interview with a leading publication.

Hussain completed his schooling and graduation in Mumbai.

At the age of 19, he went to the United States. The year was 1970. His first concert at the Fillmore East in New York was with Pandit Ravi Shankar. It was by coincidence that Hussain was accompanying the great sitarist. His

father was supposed to do but when he fell ill, the organisers were confident that his son could replace him.

In the US, Hussain's talent soared to new heights. Widely acknowledged as an architect of the contemporary world music movement, he has had many historic collaborations, including Shakti which he formed with John McLaughlin and L. Shankar, Remember Shakti, the Diga Rhythm Band, Making Music, Planet Drum

with Micky Hart (famous drummer of the legendary Grateful Dead), Tabla Beat Science, among others. He won the coveted Grammy Award twice over: Best World Music Album for "Planet Drum" in 1992 and for "Global Drum Project" as Contemporary World Music Album, 2009.

Hussain has also done recordings and performances with names as diverse as George Harrison, YoYoMa, Joe Henderson, Van Morrison, Mark Morris and the Kodo drummers.

Hussain has even dabbled in films. He played a role in "Heat and Dust" for which he was associate music director as well. He has composed music for several films such as "In Custody" by Ismail Merchant and has played the tabla for the soundtracks of "Apocalypse", "Little Buddha" and other films.

Hart and he put the music together for "The Godfather". He takes pride in solely having done the music for the last 12 dramatic minutes of the film – when Marlon Brando gets killed.

Hussain is constantly on the learning curve. "Never stop being a student – be a better student," he once said to an interviewer.

Kamal Ahmed's "Durer Bondhu" releases today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tagore singer Kamal Ahmed's 13th solo audio album "Durer Bondhu", under the label of Raga Music, Kolkata, India releases today (August 6) marking the 75th death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

The album features 10 songs from various parjaya. The album starts off with a Prem Parjaya song "Nishi Na Pohatey" followed by a Prakriti Parjaya and a Pooja Parjaya song. The fourth song "Kachhey Chhiley Dur-e Geley" is from the bard's play "Mayer Khela".

Tagore enthusiasts will find both popular and lesser-known songs like "Jodi Jantem Amar Kisher Byatha", "Amar Jibon Patro Uchchhalia" and "Nidra Hara Raat-er E Gaan" in the album.

Though he dons the hat of director (External Service) in Bangladesh Betar, Kamal Ahmed is a passionate singer. Apart from Rabindra Sangeet, he sings golden oldies and songs of three poets. He has seven Rabindra Sangeet albums amongst the 12 solo albums to his credit.



Bangladeshi troupes to perform in Int'l Performing Arts Fest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Berhampore Kalakshetra International Performing Arts Festival 2016 is now being held in Berhampore, India. Inaugurated by celebrated thespian, Ataur Rahman, on August 3rd, the festival will continue till August 11. The event will feature a variety of performing arts including music, dance,

drama and more.

Artists of the dance troupe Pallavi Dance Centre, Bangladesh, will stage a Tagore dance drama "Shapmochan" on August 6. Dancer-choreographer Minu Haque will lead and direct the dance drama. Another Bangladeshi cultural troupe Bonhishikha, led by Golam Quddus, will also perform at the festival.