



6th Oriental Painting Exhibition 2016
Organiser: Oriental Painting Study Group
Venue: Zainul Gallery-1 & 2, FFA, DU
Date: Nov 08-13; Time: 11am-8pm
Inauguration: 3pm on Nov 8



Sachin Dev Burman Music Fest
Organiser: Bonhishikha
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Public Library, Shahbagh
Date: Nov 11-13
Time: 6pm daily



Solo Photography Exhibition
November in Paris
Photographer: Sumon Yusuf
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Date: Nov 4-15; Time: 2:30-9pm



Concert
Get Unplugged 2
Organiser: Get Amped
Venue: Food Republic, Banani
Date: November 18
Time: 3pm



NEWS bytes

Jessica Chastain to star in "Painkiller Jane"

Jessica Chastain will star in and produce the vigilante drama "Painkiller Jane", based on the graphic novel series by Jimmy Palmiotti and Joe Quesada. In the original story, first published in 1995, the lead character is an undercover police officer assigned to infiltrate a mob who doesn't realise that an explosive device has been planted on her. She's severely injured, but her target manages to revive her and give her superhuman regenerative powers. She then becomes the vigilante Painkiller Jane, leaving



behind her life as a police officer.

"Painkiller Jane" was adapted into a 2005 Syfy channel TV movie, starring Emmanuelle Vaugier. Syfy also aired a season of another "Painkiller Jane" series in 2007 starring Kristanna Loken.

Chastain will be seen next as a lobbyist in John Madden's "Miss Sloane".

Source: Variety



Clockwise from left: Javed Bashir, Momtaz and Simon Thacker's Swara Kanti, featuring Raju Das Baul and Farida Yasmin perform at the event.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

JAVED'S MADNESS, MOMTAZ'S CALM Folk Fest opens with a call to the soul

FAHMIM FERDOUS and ZAHANGIR ALOM
The Dhaka International Folk Festival opened on the right note on Thursday night, as the performers stayed true to the spirit of genre – the call of spirituality and the soul. In their own respective approaches, a variety of performers presented beautiful music that the audience, in their thousands, enjoyed thoroughly. Pallavi Dance Centre opened the festival with a set of five group dance performances, set on familiar folk tunes. Their bright costumes and energetic movement on stage set the mood to festive, quite successfully. Abdur Rahman Baul, a direct disciple of Baul Shah Abdul Karim, then took the stage with a traditional baul ensemble, and got the audience going with familiar tunes of "Maya Lagaichhe", "Agey Ki Sundor Din Kataitam" and "Matir Pinjiraye". The inaugural ceremony remained short and sweet, where the distinguished guests highly praised the organisers for bringing the festival

back on Dhaka's soil. AMA Muhith inaugurated the festival, after Dhaka North City Mayor Annisul Haq thanked Anjan Chowdhury for "introducing our heritage to the young blood." Tuntun Baul, another artiste of the roots, took the stage next, and his booming rendition of Lalon's "Bolo Swarup" was greeted with rapturous applause. His authentic baul-style presentation of numbers "Lonthoner Rooper Bati" and "Apon Mone Jar Gorol Makha Thake" were a treat. Simon Thacker's Swara Kanti, featuring Raju Das Baul (Santiniketan, India) and Farida Yasmin (Bangladesh) were up next. The Scottish classical guitarist with a deep interest in the music of Bangladesh's folk bard's was a refreshing element, and Raju Das Baul did ample justice to songs like "Tomra Kunjo Sajao Go" (a Shah Abdul Karim song) and "Dil Doriya'r Majhe" (by Lalon). The West-Bengal school of folk music was on display with "Menoka Mathaye Dilo Ghomta", where the flamenco guitar blended beautifully. There was no attempt at 'fusion' -- something that urbanite

and westerners often try with our folk music -- but just a seamless amalgamation, and the khamak and nylon-string Spanish guitar sounded beautiful. Farida Yasmin brought her vocal range out in "Helaye Helaye" (Lalon) and "Dhonno Dhonno Boli Tarey". The group also presented the famous Radharaman number 'Bhromor Koiyo Giya'. Javed Bashir, the prodigious Pakistani classical and quwwali singer, opened with a tarana titled "Hans Dhun" (on Raga Hansadhwani), a number he originally sang with Mekaal Hasan Band. The audience's enthusiasm seemed to rub off on him, as he belted out one manic *sargam* after another, showing his incredible vocal prowess. Although the sound engineering fell apart in places, it didn't deter him from bringing out his musical expression and phraseology with original numbers like "Aje Latha Naiyo", "Tera Naam Japdi Phiran" and "Ye Tune Kya Kiya", reciting shers in between and getting the audience involved. He also brought along two very familiar numbers on his set-list, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan's "Sanu Ek Pal Chayn Na

Aave" and the iconic "Dama Dam Mast Kalandar". Momtaz, the highlight of the day, said up front that she would not perform her more popular, crowd-pleasing numbers, and instead pay tributes to the mystic bards of the country. The artiste first rendered "Nirikh Bandho Rey", composed by Fakir Kalu Shah, and emotively performed a Rajjab Ali Dewan number "E Dehopur-e Hriday Moshjid Ghar-e". The singer explained the inner meaning of the song "Chokher Jol Ar Moner Taan", composed by Monmohon Dutta. Eulogising Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, Momtaz swayed the audience with her captivating performance of the song "Khwaja Morey Nai Morey Nai Rey", composed by Abul of Manikganj. The artiste later rendered a song from her album "Agun Pani Batash Noor-e Mishaiya" and wrapped up her part with a Maizbhandari song "Gausul Azam". The audience danced to her every performance of songs as the instrumentalists did a great job to create a musical ambience at the festival venue.

'GOHONJATRA' TO PREMIERE TODAY

Padatik TSC brings monodrama to Dhaka stage



A new theatre play titled "Gohonjatra" will premiere on the Dhaka stage today, at the Experimental Theatre Hall of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Padatik Nattya Sangsad's (TSC) new production is a monodrama enacted by Shamsi Ara Sayeka, written by Rubaiyat Ahmed and directed by Sudip Chakraborty. The play is set in a land where followers

of an extremist ideology have murdered and destroyed the land, and imprisoned people of differing opinions. Only one survivor, Salma, manages to escape alive, and returns to bury the dead bodies. She is eventually captured by the extremists, raped and set on fire, but her inner self finds it to be a test, which will connect her to a supreme self. Through her demise, Salma wishes that all discrimination and anarchy is eradicated from the earth.

PERFORMING TODAY AT DHAKA INT'L FOLK FEST 2016

The featured performers of the concluding night of Dhaka International Folk Festival 2016 are Bangladeshi artistes Sunil Karmokar, Islamuddin Kissakar and Bari Siddiqui, Nooran Sisters (India), Taposh and Friends (Bangladesh), Sam Mills (UK) featuring Susheela Raman (UK) and renowned Indo-Franco artiste Paban Das Baul will close the festival.



IN TRANSITION: LEONARD COHEN (1934-2016)

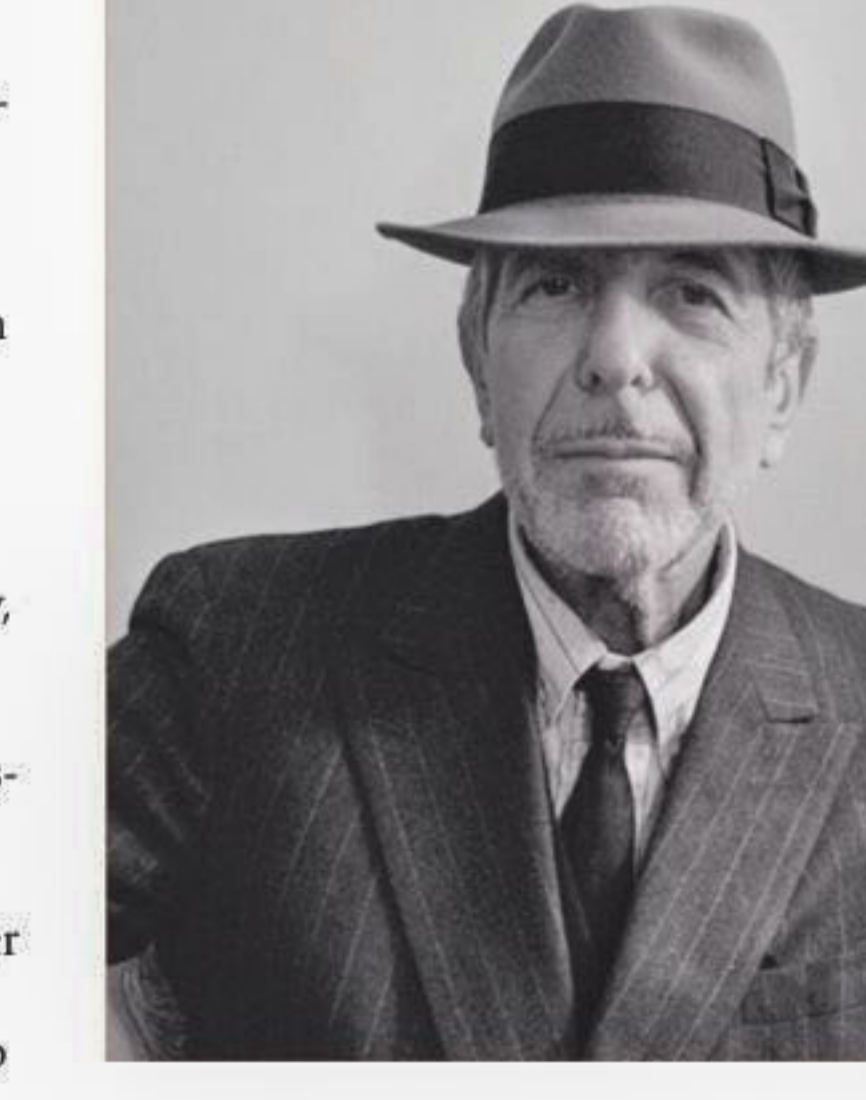
"There is a Crack in Everything; That's How the Light Gets In"

Leonard Cohen, the hugely influential singer and songwriter whose work spanned nearly 50 years, died at the age of 82. Cohen's label, Sony Music Canada, confirmed his death on the singer's Facebook page on Friday morning. "It is with profound sorrow we report that legendary poet, songwriter and artist, Leonard Cohen has passed away," the statement read. "We have lost one of music's most revered and prolific visionaries. A memorial will take place in Los Angeles at a later date. The family requests privacy during their time of grief." A cause of death and exact date of death was not given. "My father passed away peacefully at his home in Los Angeles with the knowledge that he had completed what he felt was one of his greatest records," Cohen's son Adam wrote in a statement to Rolling Stone.

Cohen was the dark eminence among a small pantheon of extremely influential singer-songwriters to emerge in the Sixties and early Seventies. Only Bob Dylan exerted a more profound influence upon his generation, and perhaps only Paul Simon and fellow Canadian Joni Mitchell equaled him as a song poet. Cohen's haunting bass voice, nylon-stringed guitar patterns and Greek-chorus backing vocals shaped evocative songs that dealt with love and hate, sex and spirituality, war and peace, ecstasy and depression. He was also the rare artiste of his generation to enjoy artistic success into his Eighties, releasing his final album, "You Want It Darker", earlier this year.

Leonard Cohen, born September 21, 1934, in Westmount, Quebec, learned guitar as a teenager and formed a folk group called the Buckskin Boys. Early exposure to Spanish writer Federico Garcia Lorca turned him toward poetry – while a flamenco guitar teacher convinced him to trade steel strings for nylon. After graduating from McGill University, Cohen moved to the Greek island of Hydra, and published the poetry collection "Flowers for Hitler" (1964) and the novels "The Favourite Game" (1963) and "Beautiful Losers" (1966). Frustrated by poor book sales, and tired of working in Montreal's garment industry, Cohen visited New York in 1966 to investigate the city's robust folk-rock scene. His New York milieu included Andy Warhol, the Velvet Underground, and the haunting German singer Nico, whose despondent delivery he may have emulated on his exqui-

site 1967 album "Songs of Leonard Cohen". Cohen quickly became the songwriter's songwriter of choice for artistes like Judy Collins, James Taylor, Willie Nelson and many others. His black-and-white album photos offered an arresting image to go with his stark yet lovely songs. His next two albums were "Songs From a Room" (1969) and "Songs of Love and Hate" (1971). During the 70s, Cohen set out on the first of the many long, intense tours he would reprise toward the end of his career. Cohen's relationship with Suzanne Elrod during most of the '70s resulted in two children, the photographer Lorca Cohen and Adam Cohen, who leads the group Low Millions. Cohen was well known for his wandering ways, and his most stable relationships were with back-



sing singers Laura Branigan, Sharon Robinson, Anjani Thomas, and, most notably, Jennifer Warnes, who he wrote with and produced. After indulging in a variety of international styles on Recent Songs (1979), Cohen accorded Warnes full co-vocal credit on 1984's "Various Positions". "Various Positions" included "Hallelujah", a meditation on love, sex and music that would become Cohen's best-known composition thanks to Jeff Buckley's incandescent 1994 reinterpretation. In 1995, Cohen halted his career, entered the Mt. Baldy Zen Center outside of Los Angeles, became an ordained Buddhist monk and took on the Dharma name Jikan ('silence'). Cohen broke his musical silence in 2001 with "Ten New Songs", a collaboration

with Sharon Robinson, and "Dear Heather" (2004), a relatively uplifting project with current girlfriend Anjani Thomas. The final act of Cohen's career began in 2005, when it was found his longtime manager Kelley Lynch had robbed Cohen of more than \$5 million. To replenish the fund, Cohen undertook an epic world tour during which he would perform 387 shows from 2008 to 2013. He continued to record as well, releasing "Old Ideas" (2012) and "Popular Problems", which hit US shops a day after his eightieth birthday. When the Grand Tour ended in December 2013, Cohen largely vanished from the public eye. Just last month, he released "You Want It Darker", produced by his son Adam. Severe back issues made it difficult for Cohen



to leave his home, so Adam placed a microphone on his dining room table and recorded him on a laptop. The album was met with rave reviews, though a New Yorker article timed to its release revealed that he was in very poor health. "I am ready to die," he said. "I hope it's not too uncomfortable. That's about it for me." The singer-songwriter later clarified that he was "exaggerating". "I've always been into self-dramatization," Cohen said last month. "I intend to live forever." And it is safe to say that wish of his was granted, long before his body succumbed to worldly woes and his soul elevated for a higher place. Source: Rolling Stone