

WHAT'S ON Painting Exhibition Bangabandhu Bangladesh Organiser: BSA & Samatat Sonargaon Venue: National Art Gallery, BSA Date: March 4-17 Time: 11am-8pm		Photography Exhibition Title: London 1971: Unsung Heroes of the Bangladesh Liberation War Venue: British Council Date: March 3-31		Solo Painting Exhibition Title: Journey & Images Artist: Ranjit Das Venue: Galleri Kaya Date: March 12-25 Time: 11am-8pm		Duet Print Exhibition Title: Diversity in Duality by Ajit Seal & Uttam Kumar Basak Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-7, Rd-13 (New), Dhanmondi Date: Mar 12-24 Time: 3-8pm		Solo Art Exhibition In Memory of Khalid Mahmood Mithu Venue: Zainul Gallery, FFA, DU Date: March 7-13 Time: 12noon-8pm	
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NEWS bytes

"Kong" climbs towards \$47M opening

It's mutant vs. beast in the Box Office, as "Logan" and "Kong: Skull Island" face off over the US weekend. Warner Bros. and Legendary Entertainment's King Kong movie should lead the pack in its opening weekend, according to Friday afternoon estimates. The tentpole looked to earn about \$18 million on Friday on its way to an opening in the \$45 million to \$50 million range.



Overseas, "Kong" has made \$12 million in two days. UK leads international grosses for the film with \$751,000, followed by Russia, UAE and South Korea.

Tom Hiddleston, Brie Larson, Samuel L Jackson and John Goodman make up the core cast of "Kong". Jordan Vogt-Roberts directed the movie based on a script by Dan Gilroy, Max Borenstein and Derek Connolly. The franchise reboot was made for an estimated \$135 million.

Since it is the only major release this weekend, "Kong" faces the toughest competition in the form of Hugh Jackman. "Logan" was a box office beast during its opening weekend last week when it earned \$88.4 million. During its second frame, the film is expected to earn about \$40 million. Blumhouse and Universal's third weekend of the horror thriller "Get Out" should land safely in third with about \$20 million.

Source: Variety

KAMAL LOHANI SLAMS DISTORTION OF PATRIOTIC SONGS AT JOY BANGLA CONCERT

Bangladesh Sangeet Parishad celebrates 25th anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent cultural personality Kamal Lohani on Friday slammed the 'cacophonous' performance of songs of the Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra performed at the Joy Bangla concert, demanding their punishment. He was speaking at a programme arranged by Bangladesh Sangeet Parishad (BSP) to mark its 25th founding anniversary, at Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad auditorium, Bangla Academy.

"The unity of the singers under the umbrella of Bangladesh Sangeet Parishad will help resist the ongoing aggression of malpractice against Bangla music. We fought for instilling the right place of our cultural heritage through music in the then 23-year rule of East Pakistan, but it is a matter of regret that we are yet to precisely showcase the opulent heritage of our culture to the people of our country over the past 45 years of Bangladesh. The songs [of Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra] that inspired the Freedom Fighters in 1971 were presented in a distorted manner at



Artistes of BSP sing a chorus at the event.

PHOTO: STAR

Joy Bangla Concert on March 7. Those singers should be punished for their cacophonous performances of the glorious songs," said Kamal Lohani.

Speaker of the National Parliament Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury graced the occasion as chief guest while veteran cultural

personality Kamal Lohani, noted educationist Syed Manzoorul Islam, seasoned singers -- Ferdousi Rahman and Syed Abdul Hadi, noted music director Azad Rahman and Poet Kazi Rosy, MP spoke as special guests.

Rehana Ashikur Rahman, President of BSP, Sheikh Sadi Khan, Vice President of BSP and Ferdous

Hossain Bhuiyan, secretary general of BSP delivered welcome addresses at the event.

"The songs of Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra are an inseparable part of our national culture. The singers held the morale of Freedom Fighters high during the Liberation War of 1971. The eternal appeal of Bangla

music will never be diminished. The singers are a great resource for our country. We hope to diffuse the timeless melodies among forthcoming generations. Bangladesh Sangeet Parishad will manage to unite singers to the overall development of Bangla music. The National Parliament and the government of Bangladesh will stand beside them when they need," said Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury.

Later, the guests along with the leaders of BSP and the featured singers, who recorded a CD, unveiled an album titled "Surjadoy-e Gaan" at the event. Sheikh Sadi Khan and Anisur Rahman Tonu directed music for the album. The singers performed all the eight songs including "Sona Sona Sona", "Durgam Giri Kantar Moru", "Sangkocher Bihwolata", "Eki Oporoop Roop-e Ma" and "Jodi Tor Daak Shuney". Artistes of four troupes - Rewaz Performers' School, Pallavi Dance Centre, Dibya Sangskritik Sangathan and Shadhona - danced to four songs at the programme.

Siddhartha Talukder's solo exhibit opens at AFD



(L-R) Nisar Hossain, Rafiqun Nabi and the artist take a tour of the exhibition.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A solo painting exhibition titled "Self-revelation" by Professor Siddhartha Talukder began at La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka on March 10.

Eminent artist Professor Rafiqun Nabi inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest. Renowned artist and Dean of the Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka Professor Nisar Hossain and noted art critic Moinuddin Khaled also attended the opening ceremony as special guests. Bruno Plasse, Director of Alliance Française de Dhaka, welcomed the distinguished guests and presided over the opening ceremony.

Siddhartha Talukder has a 40-year pursuit of art. Though he participated in more than 100 group exhibitions at both national and international level, this is his first solo exhibition.

In the past few years, Talukder has worked with different colour media like oil, watercolour, acrylic, pastel, and mixed media. His artistic language is abstract and

his subjects are mainly nature, human beings and sometimes non-objective things; and convey both traditionalism and modernism. Some of his paintings are painted over a long period of time and encapsulate many layers of musings and creative awareness. As Talukder says, "each diligent artist should leave a sign of their own style even under restriction," his paintings to exude hard work, dedication and introspection.

Talukder was born in Jamalpur in 1957. He obtained his MFA in Drawing and Painting from the Institute of Fine Art (Now faculty of Fine Art), University of Dhaka, in 1984. He did his PhD on History of Art from Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, India in 1999. Currently, he is the Professor of Department of Painting, Oriental Art and Printmaking, University of Rajshahi.

The exhibition is open from Monday to Thursday from 3pm to 9pm and on Fridays and Saturdays from 9am to 12 noon and from 5pm to 8pm. It will conclude on March 18.

RUPCHANDA-THE DAILY STAR SUPER CHEF Episode 11: Chef Miraj stuns the kitchen

OSAMA RAHMAN

Chef Miraj's entry as the special guest judge to the Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef kitchen brought out an electrifying atmosphere which hung thick in the air. The veteran chef with 5-star fame would present a cooking demonstration after which the participants would have to recreate the dish prepared. By now, the participants fully understood what a cooking demonstration would entail. However, this demonstration would be very different and completely unexpected.

Chef Miraj strode to his place in the centre of the kitchen, the participants applauding his arrival while anxiously glancing at his table, trying to figure out what they would be making. They knew that even a one minute heads-up would prove to be extremely valuable. According to the Super Chef judges, the key to being a Super Chef is developing the right state of mind, and being ready for absolutely anything. Those who had taken this

advice to heart the night before would understand its significance tonight. Chef Miraj had no intention of showing them how to make the dish. He was going to be telling them and verbal instructions of such complexity would only be understood by those with ample experience in the kitchen. The rest could only hope for the best.

The challenge was to recreate Chef Miraj's stuffed chicken breast with herb's crust blanket. Chef Miraj dove into the explanation of this intricate dish while the participants desperately took notes. Chef Miraj did not even provide the usage of the ingredients but the participants had to go by taste only. A 45-minute time was then set and off they went. Ayesha Ershad Bipasha, a housewife from Dhaka, took to the task like fish to water. She deftly negotiated the many twists without skipping a beat. It was evident that this something she was really good at.

"I have been catering on a small scale so I could adapt. I had never made this dish

before but I tasted it and then among 40 or so ingredients, I chose the best 30 to make the dish," Ayesha remembers with a fondness nurtured from her days in the Super Chef kitchen. So how good was Ayesha's dish? Chef Miraj famously described it as being just like the one he had prepared and this was indeed shocking. Imagine tasting a spoon of something and just hearing a little about the process of making it and then recreating it, in its entirety. Yesterday, Ayesha Ershad shone and for that she was rewarded. 23-year old Farhana Bithi, however, was not successful. The MBA student from Chittagong bid farewell but vowed to return someday again.

The participants, however, get no time to rest. Tonight, they return to ntv sharp at 9pm, this time taking on the traditional dessert of preference, pitha. Sounds easy enough but if there's one thing we have learned from the last episode, nothing in the Super Chef kitchen comes easy. To find out what happens, tune it tonight!



Renowned artiste Khairul Anam Shakil performed in a solo musical soiree at Poet Sufia Kamal auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum on March 10. The singer rendered songs composed by Panchokobi (Tagore, Nazrul, DL Roy, Atul Prasad and Rajanikanta), golden oldies and raga-based Bangla songs at the event, organised by Bangladesh National Museum.


