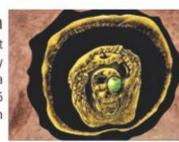


WHAT'S ON
Painting Exhibition
 Title: The Skin of a Living Thought
 Artist: Nargis Poly
 Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
 Date: August 4-16
 Time: 3-9pm



Musical Soiree
 Songs of Lalon and Radharaman
 Organiser: BSSSP
 Venue: Music & Dance Auditorium, BSA
 Date: August 4; Time: 6:30pm



National Art Exhibition
 2017
 Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Venue: National Art Gallery, BSA
 Date: Jul 26-Aug 14
 Time: 11am to 8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
 Another Axis
 Artist: Alomgir Hossain
 Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
 Date: July 22 - Aug 1
 Time: 3-9pm



Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Charcoal
 Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara
 Date: Jul 28-Aug 11
 Time: 11am-8pm



A quest for the mythical Muslin

Documentary "Legend of the Loom" premiered

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Muslin, the premier fabric of Bengal of the pre-Moghul and Moghul era, has many legends attached to it – a six yard piece of fabric is said to have fit in a matchbox, and a pound of that cloth, also called 'skin of the moon' and 'woven air', is said to have stretched for 250 miles. In time, the production of the exquisite fabric has diminished and is now a lost treasure. Drik-Bengal Muslin, an initiative of Drik, has been working to bring forth the history and legacy of the fabled fabric, as well as attempting to revive it in the last few years. A documentary titled "Legend of the Loom" was their latest offering that premiered at the Sufia Kamal Auditorium of the Bangladesh National Museum (BNM) on Sunday. The Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor graced the event as chief guest, that was presided over by BNM Director General Faizul Latif Chowdhury. Drik's CEO and researcher and presenter of the documentary, Saiful Islam also spoke at the event.

The 43-minute documentary, in English, traces the history of Muslin from its earliest days, its origins on the riverbanks of Meghna, Shitalakhya and Brahmaputra, its intricate, delicate production process and worldwide popularity that stretched far beyond Asia and conquered European royalty like French queen Marie Antoinette, Napoleon's wife Joséphine de Beauharnais and British author



Jane Austen, its impact on trade up to the oppression of the farmers by the British Colonial rule that eventually caused its demise. Done with care and extensive research, the documentary is as well-researched and informative as it is engrossing. Mita Rahman narrates the documentary that travels to museums and collections in the UK and France where samples of Muslin are kept, and the documentary ends with the initiatives that have been taken to revive the strand of the 'phuti karpas', the cotton species that produced the Muslin, through collection of various cotton strands and doing their genetic profiles.

The Drik-Bengal Muslin project had earlier organised a month-long Muslin Festival last year. An exhibition titled "Muslin Revival", a seminar, fashion show, a book and a graphic novel were all part of the project.

The documentary, in partnership with the Cultural Affairs Ministry, BNM and Aarong, is set to be screened at a few venues throughout this month, and a Bangla version of it is also set to be released soon.

SAJAL & PURNIMA lose sight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Within the intricate networks of Puran Dhaka lies a house known to locals as Begum Bari. The residence has acclaimed fame over the years as a filming location for many TV plays, and currently the location is in high activity for Eid-ul Azha ventures.

Director Ruman Runi has just filmed a new Eid TV play titled "Ondojoney Ondokkhoney". Scripted by Yusuf Ali Khokon, the main cast includes Purnima and Sajal. As the plot unravels, the pair will be seen stumbling into humorous situations as strange circumstances causes them to become blind for one hour.

"For any character, we often have to slip into disguises and adopt different habits, but it is extremely challenging to portray a blind character," stated Sajal regarding his role. "But I am lucky to be teamed up with such a talented co-star. I've been a huge fan of Purnima, especially her role in 'Moner Majhe Tumi.'"

Purnima, however is not new to portraying a disability on screen. "I have played a deaf-mute in the film 'Shobha', and so I know how tasking it can be," she said.



Guests and the artiste at the album launch. PHOTO: STAR

Pandit Swarnamoy launches album in port city

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

A cultural evening featuring renditions of Pandit Swarnamoy Chakraborty was held in the port city on Saturday. On the occasion of launching his first vocal classical CD, Classical Music Students Forum Chittagong organised the programme at AK Khan Auditorium of Fulki.

As the chief guest, Chittagong University (CU) Vice Chancellor Prof Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury with other eminent personalities unveiled the cover of the CD at the programme.

The CD contains a Raga named Behag, a Thumri "Piya Bin Jiya Beete Jaye" and raga-based Bengali song "Nishi Jege Ghumaye Shey". Pandit Samar Saha accompanied him on tabla for the album.

The main programme started by a choral classical rendition "Saptasure Rangin Aakashe" performed by the members of Classical Music Students Forum Chittagong. Pandit Swarnamoy composed the raga-based song. Following the performance, a short discussion was also held, presided over by Prof Rashida Khanam.

Prof Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury gave appreciation to Swarnamoy for publishing the CD.

Termining classical music as a meditative art, Ekushey Padak laureate artiste Ustad Azizul Islam appreciated the artiste for spreading classical music among the young minds in the city.

This event was also special as it marked the 49th birth anniversary of Pandit Swarnamoy. Born in Banshkhali upazila in Chittagong, Swarnamoy took his earliest lesson in classical music to his father Horirranjan Chakraborty. He later received lessons from maestros like Ustad Nirod Baran Barua and Pandit Arun Bhaduri.

The second session of the programme started with Raga Megh presented by Pandit Swarnamoy. He subsequently performed a Bandish in Raga Mishra Shivaranjani composed by Ustad Nirod Baran Barua. Sabuj Ahmed and Pramit Barua accompanied the artiste on tabla and harmonium respectively.

NEWS bytes

McCartney wrote a song about Trump?

Paul McCartney may have something to say about Donald Trump on his forthcoming untitled album, according to the Liverpool Echo.

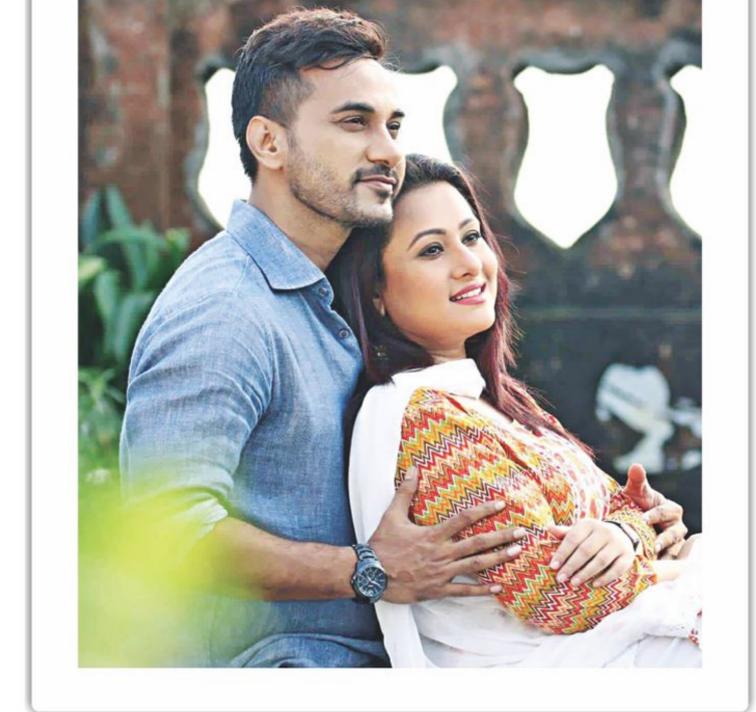
During a visit to students at the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts last week, the paper reports that McCartney told the students, "Sometimes the situation in the world is so crazy, that you've got to address it." The Liverpool Echo says the song he's written will pertain to President Trump.

He didn't elaborate further on the song according to the report, but given some other recent comments he has made, Trump and his followers probably won't be a fan of the song. In an interview with the Australian newspaper the Daily Telegraph published at the beginning of July, he told writer Cameron Adams, "I'm not a fan at all. He's unleashed a kind of violent prejudice that is sometimes latent among people."



The list of musicians who have sung or tweeted opposition to Trump includes Fiona, Death Cab For Cutie, Roger Waters, Joan Baez, Carole King, Loudon Wainwright III, Billy Bragg and Lady Gaga.

Source: **Billboard**



Bollywood thumbs-ups "Lucknow Central" trailer



The recently released trailer of "Lucknow Central" has been garnering appreciation for not only its story line, but also the powerful performances by the ensemble cast.

The trailer was widely appreciated not just by the audience, but also the Bollywood fraternity. Big names like Karan Johar, Shahid Kapoor, Arjun Kapoor, Anupam Kher, Arjun Rampal and Anushka Sharma were among those who took to Twitter to praise the trailer.

"Raw Real and engaging!!" said Johar in this tweet, while veteran director Gowariker said the trailer "looks gritty and entertaining."

Irfan Khan wished the film luck, while Anil Kapoor exclaimed it as "What a cracker of a trailer!"

Sonam Kapoor tweeted "Enthralling till the last second" to Farhan Akhtar, who she had shared screen space for "Bhaag Milkha Bhaag".

"Lucknow Central" exhibits the tale of a simple ambitious man, caught in a tragedy that changes his life forever. The film thrives on ambition, passion, friendship, and determination. Kishen Mohan Girhotra, played by Farhan Akhtar, is an aspiring singer, who idolizes Manoj Tiwari in the small town of Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh. Kishen's world turns upside down, when he is falsely accused of a murder and is sent to Lucknow Central jail.

"Lucknow Central" features Farhan Akhtar, Deepak Dobriyal, Ronit Roy, Gippy Grewal, Rajesh Sharma, Inaamulhaq, Uday Tikekar, Sukh Kunwa and Diaan Penty, and is directed by debutante Ranjit Tiwari.

The film is slated to release on September 15.

Source: **TOI**

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