

WHAT'S ON



Theatre Festival
38 Years of Dhaka Padatik
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala
Academy
Date: Mar 9-16
Time: 7pm



Art Exhibition
Shohoroma
Venue: Daily Star Bengal Arts
Precinct
& Gyantapas Abdur Razzak
Bidyapeeth
Date: Mar 2-16; Time: 11am-7pm



Group Art Exhibition
Us Women
Organiser: EMK Center
Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
Date: Mar 8-22
Time: 9:30am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Oil Head
Artist: RA Kajol
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-7,
Rd-13 (New), Dhanmondi
Date: Mar 09-18; Time: 3-8pm



Musical Soiree
Deshghorur Gaan
Organiser: Chhayanaut
Venue: Rabindra Sarobar Mancha
Date: Mar 16
Time: 5:30pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Abstraction of Collage Painting
Artist: Khurshid Alam Saleem
Venue: Gallery Twenty One
Date: Mar 18-27
Time: 12-8pm

NEWS bytes



Jon Hamm joins "Pale Blue Dot"

Jon Hamm is in negotiations to star opposite Natalie Portman in Fox Searchlight's "Pale Blue Dot", reports Variety.

"*Fargo*" and "*Legion*" creator Noah Hawley is directing from a script by Brian C Brown and Elliott DiGuiseppi. Reese Witherspoon, who was attached to star at one point, will produce with Bruna Papandrea.

"*Pale Blue Dot*" follows a successful female astronaut who, after coming back home from a mission in space, starts to unravel when confronted by her seemingly perfect life. The film explores the theory that astronauts who spend long periods of time in space lose their sense of reality when they return home.

Hamm will play Portman's fellow astronaut who she aggressively pursues after returning to Earth.

Hamm, best known for his role as Don Draper on AMC's "*Mad Men*", has taken on more movies since the show ended in 2015. He most recently starred in "*Marjorie Prime*" and also had a scene-stealing role as a bank robber in Edgar Wright's "*Baby Driver*".

Source: **Variety**

I believe in quitting with dignity ... Kumar Biswajit



ROKON SHAHRIAR

In a glorious musical career spanning 40 years, Kumar Biswajit has won over music lovers of all ages. Starting his musical career in Radio Bangladesh (now Bangladesh Betar) back in the late '70s and creating a firm niche in Bangladesh Television in the early '80s, Biswajit has sung nearly 400 songs in his 36 studio albums and 500 movies that fetched him three National Awards - twice in Best Playback Singer category and once as the Best Music Composer. His love for experimentation has resulted in a diverse range of music all the way from folk to blues. The Daily Star talked to Biswajit to know more.

How have you been doing lately?

Kumar Biswajit: I am fine, but in a state of shock as fellow artistes like Ali Akbar Rupu and Sabah Tani passed away recently. These days I tend to recall them. My regret is that, we do not show enough respect for deserving artistes while they are around, which is a frustrating for musicians. We need to do far more than bestow formal honours on them after their death.

Have you been happy with the way your career has unfolded over the years?

Kumar Biswajit: I am immersed in music. However, I might go into retirement from music and announce this at any stage because I believe artistes should perform with dignity and quit with dignity. I wish to retire while I am still loved by music lovers. I have always denied time to my family members because I have been so busy with music and now it is time to make them my priority.

What have been the perils of fame for you?

Kumar Biswajit: You have to manage it, which is not always easy. Sometimes you might need to allow your fans to take selfies with you on a ferry when your father has just died and you are transporting the body, or you might need to perform on stage abroad despite hearing news about the fatal accident of your baby who is in ICU back in Dhaka. Also thousands of your fans might surprise you by an on-stage birthday celebration of your son, which is beyond expectation. I mean to say, you have to tread carefully with the realities of being an artiste and be caring of your fans' emotions, be it negative or positive.

What changes do you observe in the music scenario then and now?

Kumar Biswajit: I began singing in the late '70s

and started playback in the early '80s. That time, doing music was teamwork and fun. Producers, directors, music directors -- all used to be in the studio in a picnic mood at recordings. Even heroes who were to lip-sync the songs used to be present overnight in the recording studios to observe singers' expressions that might help them act well in front of cameras. Today, we are attacked by individualism, which is reflected in our music too. There is no such team approach nowadays and the music industry is suffering because of this.

Tell us something that would surprise your fans.

Kumar Biswajit: At the beginning of my career I used to talk to the landlord from my room in a woman's voice to dodge him when he used to come to collect rent because I did not have enough money to pay. I feel ashamed of some substandard songs I sang for movies at the

Today, we are attacked by individualism, which is reflected in our music too. There is no such team approach nowadays and the music industry is suffering because of this.

request of some seniors which I did not want to. These are sides of me that I have not yet revealed.

How have you managed to stay on top for such a long time while many others have quit?

Kumar Biswajit: I am not sure how popular I am, but I am grateful to my fans for their love. I believe in quality. I kept in mind the taste of my audience while doing music and always tried to update and improve myself.

Do you have a message for those who follow you?

Kumar Biswajit: I would tell young musicians not to be restless. They should concentrate on quality and stardom will follow naturally. They should not compare themselves with others because comparisons might lead to frustration. They should not compromise with quality simply because of monetary necessity as, I believe, hardship eases with the passage of time.

"Oil Head" underway at Gallery Shilpangan

In conversation with RA Kajol

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Denmark-based noted Bangladeshi artist Ruhul Amin Kajol's 38th solo painting exhibition, titled "Oil Head", is now on at Gallery Shilpangan in Dhaka.

Social Welfare Minister Rashed Khan Menon inaugurated the exhibition on March 9. Writer-Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam and poet-art patron Rubana Huq spoke at the inaugural ceremony as special guests.

The displayed works are different from his previous shows. "The artworks are the brainchild of my household chores. I love to cook. While I put oil mixed with butter on a frying pan, it creates bubbling foams and textures that look like heads. Heat manipulates the shapes and form inside the pan and the light creates dimensions of colours. I instantly take pictures of the changing scenario with my smartphone. Later, I find the photos as complete compositions of paintings. I print the images that produce soothing colours and textures. Then I graph the images on different-sized canvases for acrylic paintings," says Kajol.

"I also attach shapes of body with the heads on canvas and use cross-weaving textures of *shitalpati* around the compositions. As I am an artist of this tropical region, I try to insert my cultural elements



Guests take a tour of the exhibit after the inauguration.

in it using the weaving textures," adds the artist.

The way the classical artists would gradually complete their work day by day, Kajol also tried to follow that style keeping the same mood for 15/20 days. "I worked incessantly for what I did for my 'Oil Head' series. The series has an allegorical interpretation. Literally, I took the idea of the series form the forms of heads formed on the upper surface of oil. That's why it is 'Oil Head'. Again, oil is an important resource

that caused many ups and down and conflicts in the so-called modern civilization. For the last 100 years, oil has played crucial roles in causing global turmoil and war. Oil is now dying out and its uses are getting diminished. But as one of the important fossil fuels, has created power for vested quarters of the global superpowers. Interestingly, the heads used in my paintings are made from oil; on the other hand, oily headed-persons play powerful roles in society that is also allegorically represented

in my paintings," he says.

The artist has used minute brushes to depict the details of the 10 paintings on display, using a balanced use of black, brown, burnt sienna, blue white, yellow and a bit of crimson and vermilion red.

A few months back, the artist held his second retrospective exhibition at three-floor galleries in Denmark. He also held his first retrospective exhibition at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhaka in 2012. He entered the Guinness Book of World Records in 1996 for the longest street painting done in the coastal Swedish city of Landskrona in 1994.

Kajol, inspired by the traditional Bangladeshi style of surface painting known as *alpona*, popularised a new form of art that he calls Traffic Art and toured around 13 countries with the project. The videos of the Traffic Art are being screened at the gallery.

Born in 1956 in Mymensingh, Kajol graduated from the Drawing and Painting Department of Dhaka University and has been living in Denmark since 1986. Kajol rose to prominence around 1990 in Copenhagen, and has so far painted streets in countries including Germany, Italy, Iceland, Norway, Mexico, Sweden, Denmark, Czech Republic, India and Bangladesh.

"Oil Head", open from 3pm to 8pm daily, will continue till March 18.

A new film-watching experience

Blues Communications' "Drive-in Movie" event today



A CORRESPONDENT

Drive-in theatre in drive-in cinema is not new; in fact, it dates back nearly a hundred years. The concept is a large, outdoor open screen with a large parking area for cars, where people can watch movies from the comfort of their cars.

However, this structure of film-watching experience has not been done in Dhaka yet, and Blues Communications, one of the top event management and live entertainment companies in the country, has organized the first event of the kind. Today (Friday) at the International Convention City Bashundhara's (ICCB) outdoor expo zone, the "Drive-in Movie" event will screen two Hollywood blockbusters – Marvel's superhero outing "*Spiderman: Homecoming*" and the horror blockbuster "*IT*". The organizers have secured

broadcasting rights from the studios to screen the films. There will also be a food court to cater to movie-time munchies of the audience.

Group tickets (for 2500 taka) to the event includes entry of four people and parking space for a car to enjoy the films, while there are also some single-entry tickets (for 1000 taka each) the holders of which will have some open seating space.

The event is being presented by Banglalink 4G.