

RECOMMENDATIONS

Birth Anniversary

Events in observance of 87th birth anniversary of Shilpacharya Jainul Abedin
Children's painting contest and discussion on January 30 from 3 p.m. at National Press Club VIP lounge

Exhibition of Jainul's painting on children and discussion program on January 31 from 4 p.m. at Bishwa Sahitya Kendra

Distribution of Jainul Award and discussion program from 5 p.m. at B.C.S. Admin. Academy, Paribag, Shahabgh

Book Fair

Bangla Academy organises Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela, a three-week long book fair at its premises to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister on February 1, 2002

Etching Print Exhibition

A solo etching prints exhibition by Rashid Amin, a Charupith Fellow (2001), starts at Gallery 21 on February 1, 2002 at 6 p.m. Eminent artist Qayyum Chowdhury will inaugurate the exhibition. Artists Nisar Hossain and Rafiqunnabi will be present as Special Guest and President of the evening, respectively. The exhibition will remain open till February 10 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. everyday.

Drama Festival

Natyo Utsav 2002, the national festival of drama will begin from February 1 and will continue for the next three weeks till February 21. To be organised by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, the drama festival will feature 'Natyo Jalsa' after the staging of the theatrical productions, each evening. Each Jalsa will include cultural events to be performed by members of the theatre groups. Coinciding with the drama festival will begin the 'Street Drama Festival 2002' that will continue till February 7, 2002.

Documentary

Three videos on Children's Daily Life will be exhibited at the auditorium of Goethe Institut at 6 p.m. on January 31, 2002.

Exhibition

Fiesta of fine arts

A monthlong art exhibition of 110 veteran and upcoming artists of Bangladesh, is currently being held at the Saju Art Gallery in the city

AZIZ AMIRUL

GRAND Group Art Exhibition Of Reputed Bangladeshi Artists 2002, a monthlong art extravaganza that has completed half of its duration



COUPLE -- Jainul Abedin

A solo etching prints exhibition by Rashid Amin, a Charupith Fellow (2001), starts at Gallery 21 on February 1, 2002 at 6 p.m. Eminent artist Qayyum Chowdhury will inaugurate the exhibition.

The exhibition, containing former and recent works of 110 artists and sculptures of the country, started at the Saju art gallery at D.C.C. North Super Market (2nd circle) of Gulshan in the city on January 6.



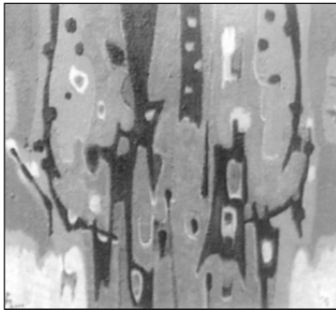
KING STORK -- Qamrul Hasan

Being the 45th artistic exposition of the gallery since 1977, the current exhibition that is being organised to commemorate the 27th founding



FISHING -- S.M. Sultan

anniversary of the gallery, holds some of the most famous artworks



SONG OF NATURE -- Safiuddin

of legendary artists like Zainul Abedin, Qamrul Hasan and S.M. Sultan. Works of Shafiuddin Ahmed,



DESIRE-1 -- Maksudul Ahsan

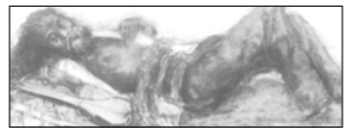
Mohammad Kibria, Hashem Khan, Kalidas Karmakar, Monirul Islam, Aminul Islam, Rafiqunnabi, Samarjit Roy, Maran Chand Paul, Abdur Razzaque, Qayyum Chowdhury, Asma Kibria, Bulbon Osman, Shahabuddin, Hamiduzzaman Khan, Biren Shome and those of similarly well-known artists have found place in the display.

Art connoisseurs of the city are able to see and enjoy several of the best paintings of all times by famous Bangladeshi artists whose works have been included here. Zainul Abedin's work, Couple, in brush and ink shows a pair of his celebrated crows that he did in 1974 when stationed at Moscow.

Qamrul Hasan's Kingstork, oil on canvas, done in 1978 is another piece of work to relish. Similar is the status of Shafiuddin Ahmed's oil work, Song of Nature 2 done in 2000.

S.M. Sultan's impressive watercolor Farming (1993) and oil painting Fishing, Mohammad Kibria's oil work Untitled (2001) and a composition in oil Moon Shadowing the Sun done in 1995 by Aminul Islam are some of the other prestigious entries in the aristocratic group exhibition.

Refined works of art like Riverside by Rafiqunnabi, Portrait-1



REST -- Jamal Ahmed

by Hashem Khan and Storyteller by Qayyum Chowdhury has also received high respect from the viewers.

A large number of relatively younger and less experienced artists have also found an opportunity to put on display their respective artwork and installation. A few names of the younger artists could be mentioned like those of Kanak Champa, Jamal Ahmed, Mokhlesur Rahman, Rafi Haque, Faruq



PORTRAIT-1 -- Hashem Khan

Ahmed, Ahmed Nazir, Shameem Subrana whose artistic skill have undoubtedly attained a standard mark to reach that of a moderate Asian height.

'I have a two-part series of paintings done in mixed media. Titled HERE & THERE 1 & 2, the two pieces depict various conditions and state of affairs of our daily lives',



LANDSCAPE-1 -- Romen Shaha

mentioned Shameem Subrana, while elaborating on her exhibits at the grand show.

Work on ceramic plates painted in deep blue by artist Syed Talukder caught considerable attention of the visitors. Depiction of nature has been done through abstract form in this particular set of ceramic plates.

Panoramic subjects have come in a few of the compositions, prominent being the series, Landscape done by Romen Shaha.

Nasim Ahmed Nadvi, one of the younger artists, received quite a considerable amount of appreciation for his fine creation of the artwork Talk of the bygone days.



LANDSCAPE-1 -- Romen Shaha

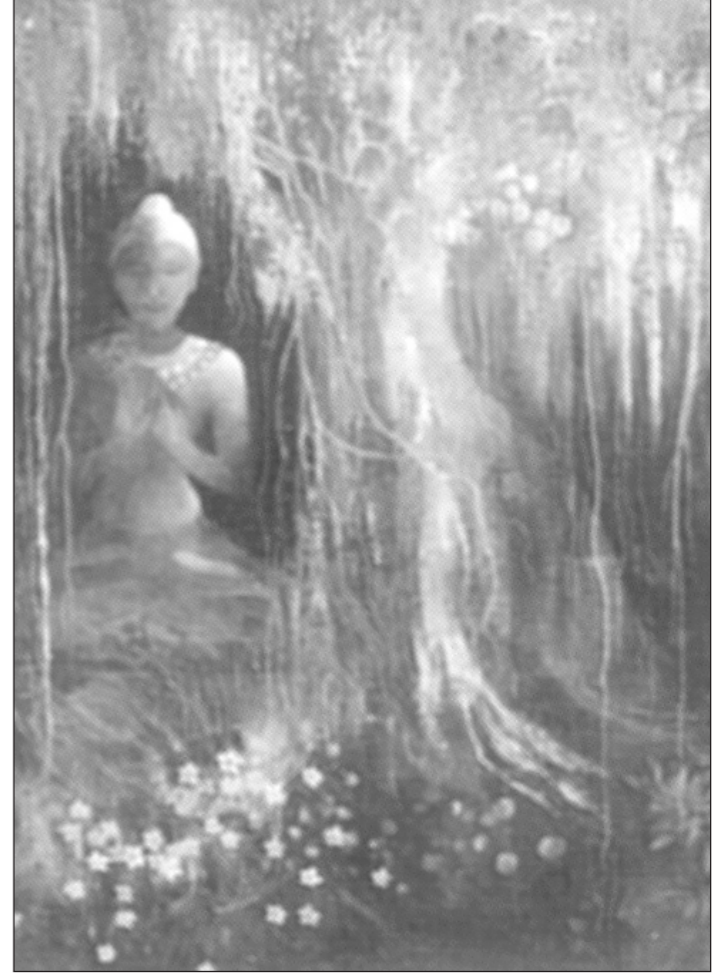
Subjects in surrealism and semi-realism have attained popularity in recent times and could be found in many of the works done by younger artists. Such a remarkable piece



MY FRIENDS -- Atia Islam

was in the form of My Friend, a fine depiction of masked faces showing the hypocritical characters mixed among faces of the well known and the truly honest.

Rafique Ahmed's Buddha had brought in a sense of ritualistic feeling with high aestheticism. The



BUDDHA'S PRAYER -- Rafique Ahmed

multi-coloured setting in the composition gave a touch of subtle refinement with a blend of fanciful realistic style.

Nature-2, work on oil by A.H.M. Bashirullah and Tagore Art Style by Matlub Ali are two of the compositions done in milder shade enabling the viewer to get a touch of romantic feeling.

Rest, a figurative semi-realistic depiction of artwork by Jamal Ahmed was another notable entry along with the series of print works

on moonlight by Mokhlesur Rahman, an artist who had won a grand prize in the ongoing Asian Biennale art exhibition.

'The exhibition has an array of works of talent, including etchings, tapestries, wood cuts, aluminium, acrylic, stone, ceramics and terracotta. If one wants to have a feel of the richness and diversity of Bangladeshi art, Saju's exhibition will certainly be worth a visit', commented Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, a top art critic of the country.

Film

"Moulin Rouge" heads field for British "Oscars"

AFP, London

THE flamboyant film-musical "Moulin Rouge" has won 13 Bafta nominations, Britain's version of the Oscars, while the fantasy epic "Lord of the Rings" is up for 12 awards.

Both productions won nominations for best film on Monday and were joined in the category by the animated movie "Shrek," "A Beautiful Mind," which is about a mathematical genius and schizophrenia victim, and "Amelie," the quirky French feel-good comedy.

"Amelie" was nominated for a total nine awards, ahead of Britain's most recent blockbuster, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone," which received eight -- many of which were for technical categories such as special effects and makeup.

Baz Luhrmann was nominated for best director for "Moulin Rouge," which was also voted for best original screenplay.

The Bafta awards ceremony takes place in London on February 24.



Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor in Moulin Rouge



Nicole Kidman as Satine, who sacrifices her love in Moulin Rouge

Sophia Loren to push Polish pasta

BSS, Warsaw

OSCAR-WINNING Italian actress Sophia Loren, author of "Eat with Me", will arrive in Poland this week to film a television commercial promoting a local pasta brand, the company said Monday.

"She is Italian, from the south, from Naples where pasta is practically a cult object, she has always promoted Italian cuisine and is well known in Poland," said Hanna Baranowska, marketing manager for Danuta, explaining why the company chose Loren to promote its products.

The commercial is due to be filmed Tuesday through Saturday in northern Poland at the 13th-century Malbork castle of the Teutonic Knights, the biggest Gothic castle built with brick in Europe.

After showing Loren at a ball being held in one of the palace's elegant rooms, the commercial will cut to her being questioned when leaving by journalists as to what she liked in Poland, with Danuta pasta being one of the answers.

Baranowska declined to reveal what fee it has paid Loren, 67, whose own cookbook is to appear in the commercial.



Sophia Loren

Danuta, which is based in the town of Malbork, 300 kilometers (180 miles) north of Warsaw, produces Poland's leading pasta brand, Malma.

Founded in 1990 by French

businessman Michel Marbot, the company takes its name from Danuta Walesa, the wife of former Solidarity union leader and president Lech Walesa.

Interview

A big fish in a small pond

A visiting French journalist recounts his experiences at home and abroad

FAYZA HAQ

TRISTAN Drocourt, JRI for France-3 channel, visiting Dhaka in his subcontinent holiday trip, says, "I concentrate only on France focusing on regional problems. As yet I've not had the opportunity to cover something outside my country."

Speaking about the memorable stories that he had done, Drocourt says, "There are so many but one that struck me particularly is the agricultural problems of French farmers due to the Mad cow scare. A lot of farmers were out of jobs as nobody could trust the quality of beef. Therefor they had to slaughter a large number of herds which was a great loss to them. Many of them had borrowed from the bank and there were unable to return the sums. They had some support from the government but it was insufficient."

"This did not touch the poor people but people were in a difficult situation as French farmers, ordinarily, do not earn much even otherwise, and had no savings to fall back on as compared to say US counterparts. Apart from this I deal with regional rural incidents such as an exhibition of a local artist, the opening of a new university and other diverse matters."

Asked if he selected the subjects himself, Drocourt says, "We have a conference at 8am and the chief editor who decides the topic. As we have to often go far from our office, we have to be up early to drive hundreds of kilometers, if necessary. Basically I go with my camera and then I try to get interviews. During the shooting I try to get the important people involved in the report. Next we make a draft and drive back and by the beginning of the afternoon the article is ready. In the evening we edit our work and the news is on air for the 7pm news. As France is a social country we work only four days a week and have different shifts."

Speaking about what brought him to TV journalism, Drocourt says, "I believe that TV is important for maintaining links between people and letting them know what is going on elsewhere. Basically I studied the techniques of the camera and journalism studies for two years in the north of France, in Valenciennes, and then another year as a trainee in the French TV. It is now ten years that I've been working as a TV journalist and I've enjoyed every bit



of it as for me everyday is a new life. Sometimes your work does get to be routine as every year items are repeated as in the case of festivals."

Dwelling on his trip overseas to Bangladesh because of the shared history, India remains interesting because of the variety of cultures and the numerous historical monuments like the Taj Mahal, the ultimate proof of love. Nepal, in comparison, appeared different to me in the brief period that I've been at the two places. In all these three places I found a considerable amount of noise and air pollution except when I passed by the villages. When in India I aimed at visiting the famous places like Agra, Jaipur, Udaipur and the Thar desert. I went to Rajasthan as there are many palaces of the maharajas there to reconnoiter and discover the glorious past of the Subcontinent."

Speaking about Dhaka, Drocourt says, "I've been here only for a day as I'm simply passing through. Coming here I feel I should have saved more time for Bangladesh as this too has so much to offer for a tourist. The people are more friendly here than even in India. The reason for this is perhaps the fact that a tourist is blasé for Indians whereas he/she is not in Bangladesh. Here the people were not out to make money from the visitor but rather they tried their best to put him at ease and help him out. I enjoyed my meals, the place where I slept and the company of the helpful and friendly people that I met here in Dhaka. As regards the chicken curry and rice that we were offered the offering was simply delicious. Even the manoeuvring of the colourful rickshaws in the crowded fascinated me no end as is the case for most foreigners visiting the city for the first time. My memories of Dhaka will indeed be unforgettable for the warmth and camaraderie that I enjoyed here."

US combat flick scores another bulls-eye at North American Box office

AFP, Los Angeles

DRAMATIC US combat film "Black Hawk Down" scored a second bulls-eye at the North American box office last weekend, raking in 17 million dollars in three days, box office trackers said Monday.

But the film version of J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy epic "The Lord of the Rings" fared less well, slipping dramatically from third to eighth place over the space of just one week.

Holding its top place in the money rankings, "Black Hawk" -- a dramatization of the disastrous US military foray into Somalia in 1993 -- saw its total takings here rise to 58.9 million dollars, Exhibitor Relations Inc.



Rangers try to free Wolcott (Jeremy Piven) from a downed Black Hawk

said.

Walt Disney's Alaskan family adventure "Snow Dogs" clung onto second place for a second

weekend.

Multiple Golden Globe Award winner "A Beautiful Mind" was fifth on the list of the continent's most-watched films last weekend, notching up 11.5 million to bring its total takings to a whopping 92.9 million in six weeks on the screen.

The film, which tells the story of mathematical genius and schizophrenia victim John Forbes Nash Jr., is viewed as one of the hot contenders for the Oscars, nominations for which will be revealed next month.

New release "The Count of Monte Cristo," based on the classic novel by Alexandre Dumas, came into the rankings in fifth position by scoring 11.3



Thomas Guiry as Yurek in Columbia's Black Hawk Down

million at the box office last weekend.

In a weekend marked by a quiver of new releases -- including Richard Gere film "The Mothman Prophecies" and

"Kung Pow: Enter the First," -- some old favourites dropped out of the rankings including casino heist "Ocean's 11" and critically acclaimed murder

mystery satire "Gosford Park."