

RECOMMENDATIONS

Solo Art Exhibition

The second solo painting exhibition of artist Zahir is being held at Jainul art gallery at the Institute of Fine Arts in the city. The weeklong exhibition ends on February 7, 2002. The exhibition is open for all everyday from 10:00 a.m. till 8:00 p.m.

Art Exhibition

A solo exhibition of artworks by artist Nazia Andaleeb Preema is being held at the DRIK gallery at Dhanmondi in the city. The exhibition continues till February 12, 2002. The exhibition is open for all everyday from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Thursday & Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Book Fair

Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela, a three-week long book fair at the premises of Bangla Academy is in progress. The fair is open everyday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Etching Print Exhibition

A solo etching prints exhibition by Rashid Amin, a Charupith Fellow is continuing at Gallery 21. The exhibition will remain open till February 10 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. everyday.

Drama Festival

Natty Utsav 2002, the national festival of drama is going on at the Mahila Samity auditorium in the city. The festival will continue till February 20 organised by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation. The drama festival is featuring 'Natty Jalsa' after the staging of the theatrical productions, each evening. Each Jalsa includes cultural events performed by members of the theatre groups. Coinciding with the drama festival began the 'Street Drama Festival 2002' that will continue till February 7, 2002.

'Fair & Lovely Drama Festival 2002' is continuing at the Showkat Osman auditorium of Central Public Library. The weeklong festival has been arranged with the theme 'Reach for the Skies'. DESH NATOK has composed five of the seven theatrical plays of the festival.

Rup Labonne Bangladesh

An art exhibition of 8 renowned artists of the country is being held at Gallery Chittrak at Dhanmondi in the city. Titled 'Rup Labonne Bangladesh', the exhibition is open for all from February 2 till February 16, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. everyday.

Fair

A meet of literary connoisseurs

Ekushey Grantha Mela, the most important book fair of the country is going on at the Bangla Academy premises with an array of new publications on a diverse range of subjects

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Ekushey Grantha Mela was inaugurated on February 1, 2002. Being the largest fair of publications, the event is being held at the premises of Bangla Academy, the host of the fair.

The book fair of Ekushey is a routine annual affair in the cultural calendar of Bangladesh and is regarded as the chief event regarding publication of new books and journals of the literary arena.

New books of novel, poetry, prose and short stories are being published from different stalls of the fair every day. So far during the last four days, the stalls have sold quite a large number of newly published books of famous authors. Like in previous occasions, fictions of Humayun Ahmed and Zafar Iqbal are on the high side of the demand curve with equal interest being seen in the publication of writer Humayun Azad, a more philosophical personality.

Choley Jaey Boshonter Din (Days of Spring pass by) is the lone fiction of Humayun Ahmed that has been published by Onno Prokash. The plot has been created with a theme on

Himu and his world. The anti-logical character of Himu is an all-time popular creation of Humayun Ahmed through whom the author successfully brings out the mixed qualities of the society. Neel Manush (Indigo man) is another popular fiction of Humayun, reprinted for the book fair.

Mohammad Zafar Iqbal has three publications under his name, Shanta Poribar (Shanta and family), Beji (Mongoose) and Tratulur Jogot (Tratulur's world) those have been released fresh on the occasion of Ekushey Grantha Mela. Shanta Poribar is a fiction, suitable for kids. Beji, on the otherhand, is a science fiction based compilation of short stories. The third, Tratulur Jogot is too, based on science fiction. A fourth publication that has been co-authored by Zafar Iqbal and Dr. Mohammad Kaikobad is Neoron-er Anunonon, a mathematics-based edition.

Other reputed authors of the present times including Imdadul Haq Milon, Moinul Ahsan Saber and Pronob Bhatta have entered the fair with new publications. Imdadul Haq Milon's

'Chai' (I want) from Hatekhori publication, Bolo Tarey (Tell the person) and Abhiman Porbo from Ekushey Bangla Prokashon.

Among the noted female authors of the country, Maleka Begum has presented the fair visitors, her research publication Nari andolon-er pach doshok (Five decades of women lib). Nashid Kamal, a grand daughter of singer Abbasuddin has written a family memoir Jui phooler baranda (Balcony of Jui flower). Pakhi toomi shedin ratey kadchiley keno (Bird, why did you cry the other night?), a new novel of Nasreen Jahana has created quite a sensation among young readers.

Three new publications of novelist Anisul Haq have come out on the opening day including Wridita & Suchoritashu.

Novelist Pronob Bhatta also has three new publications in the fair including Shedin dujoney (The two on the other day).

Somoy, Onno Prokash, Agami and Dibbya are some of the more reputed publication houses those are regularly thronged by habitual readers

who visit the fair especially, academic students and young couples. Onno Prokash has created history by bringing out ten new publications of various authors on the opening day of the book fair.

Somoy, Onno Prokash, Mawla Brothers, Protik and Oboshor hope of publishing at least fifty books and journals till the end of the fair. Oitijjo, Anupam, Pearl and Anannya hope to publish a minimum of thirty books, if not more.

Seminars and cultural events are a routine item in the daily agenda of the fair. During late afternoon and evening, speakers are heard rendering papers and statements on one side of the premises, allotted for the purpose of holding such events.

Begum Rokeya Sharok Grantha, a memoir written by Selina Bahar Zaman is a new arrival from Bulbul Publishing House, a publication organisation that is celebrating its 70th anniversary.

The fair is open for all from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. everyday till February 20. Gates of the fair would open at 10 a.m. on the concluding day of February 21, 2002.

Event

Patriotism of a painter

Shilpakala Academy observes 14th Death Anniversary of Painter Quamrul Hasan



Artist Mustafa Monwar presents his point on the key-note paper while Subir Chowdhury, Mizanur Rahman, Syed Ahmed and Rabiul Islam Khan--Secretary of the Academy, look on (from left to right)

TAWFIQUE ALI

ONE of the pioneering figures of the fine arts movement in the country, Quamrul Hasan is better known as Patua Quamrul Hasan. He was not merely a painter but a person imbued with nationalistic zeal, who achieved cultural greatness discussed at a memorial meet held at the newly built National Art Gallery Plaza of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on February 2.

Titled as "patriotism of Quamrul Hasan," the event was chaired by eminent art critic and theatre personality Syed Ahmed. Journalists Mizanur Rahman presented the key-note paper on the occasion. In his erudite presentation, Rahman drew a comparison between Quamrul Hasan and painter Picasso, "There are marks of Picasso's influence on Quamrul's work, of course, these influences find expression in his own distinct manner and style. While Picasso's patriotism is confined to his canvas, Quamrul Hasan applied his spirit of patriotism on a broader spectrum. Quamrul

was influenced by his guru Saday Dutt," who launched the "Bratachari Movement" which aimed to spread a progressive nationalistic spirit among Bangladeshes.

"Quamrul, throughout his life, fostered an inalienable patriotic motto "Joy Sonar Bangla" endowed by guru Saday Dutt," he noted in his paper.

The paper also maintained that Quamrul's poster a "Annihilate the Demons" in 1971 was a powerful weapon in the liberation war. It's a vivid symbol of protest against devouring evil forces, with a clear hint at repressive rulers. His works inspire his countrymen. In a newspaper interview, in 1985/86, Quamrul remarked that socialism was the only means for socio-political emancipation in Bangladesh. When asked what he would do if a socialist government came in power and confiscate all his art works, Quamrul's answer was "I am ready, of my own accord, to make any sacrifice to establish socialism. Personal feelings and emotion have found expression in many of my works. I can give them up for the sake of my countrymen."

Artist Syed Jahangir, while commenting on the paper, refuted a point saying that Kamrul's being identical to Picasso in style and expression was just a coincidence. Two different creative artists may narrate themselves alike but in their individual way.

In his commentary on the paper, Dr Enamul Huq pointed out that "patriotism of Quamrul Hasan is rooted in the 'Bratachari Movement.' Having come in contact with Saday Dutt, he joined a movement to strengthen the platform of Bangalee nationalism. He made enormous efforts to modernise the outlook of the Bangalee people. "Though he is a great artist, his unique organising skill and success in founding the 'Mukul Fouz' in 1946 surpasses his other identities."

Artist Mustafa Monwar remarked that patriotism can not be identified in art works. "We rather can identify love for humanity in them, which is much more universal. Quamrul's work advocates love for humanity and fondly touches our hearts".

Preview

Hilarious love tangle

New comedy serial to be aired on Bangladesh Television from February 13, 2002

CULTURE DESK

BD BANGLADESH Television will present Shatsho Shatattor, a new weekly comedy serial from February 13, 2002.

The nine-part drama serial is based chiefly on the plot of a tangled and humorous love affair between two couples. The synopsis unfolds with the introduction of Forkan Ali, a simpleton of the city. Forkan falls in love with Nina, a girl who comes from a middle class family background.

Sina, a friend of Nina also develops an affair with Yakub, a rich person who owns car, home and other luxurious properties.

Soon competition begins between the two girls to depict the wealthy status of their respective boyfriends. Sina goes to dates with Yakub who rides a luxurious automobile. On the other hand, poor Forkan has no such vehicle of his own. Nina feels downtrodden and inferior in complexity in front of her friend.

Forkan attempts to buy a car. A series of foolish incidents make him fall in awkward positions in different public places. Saiful, a sly friend of Forkan provides a number of advises regarding the purchase and all those points turn out to be highly unsuccessful.

Forkan buys a car on hire purchase basis and employs a chauffeur who unfortunately, is of a cunning personality. In between humorous incidents, the relationship between Sina and Yakub comes to a destructive end when Saiful creates misunderstanding between the two in a bid to get Sina as his lover.

Nina and Forkan decide to tie up the knot and to make things worse, the lovesick birds elope. They lose way and reach Kanchnur Bridge instead of their



original destination of Tongi.

At this stage of the hilarious drama, there is some relief for the viewers from monotonous comedy as the camera, in need of the plots' developments, shifts to some historical sites of Sonargaon.

Relationship between Nina and Forkan breaks at a point when the girl becomes irritated of the continual comical acts of her admirer. A same fate waits for Sina and Yakub but for a different reason. In the meantime, the car of Forkan starts speaking in human voice and Forkan gets engaged in verbal communication with the strange automobile.

The father of Nina arranges her marriage to a smart young man. To make positive things happen just in the right time, a multimillionaire decides to buy the old car of Forkan. The desperate Forkan finds heaven in earth when the rich gentleman hands him over an amount of taka 8 lacs in exchange of the

old car!

Forkan reaches the wedding stage on a brand new car, minutes before the final ritual of the marriage of Nina. A happy reunion between Nina and Forkan solves every problem



and thus ends the serial drama, Shatsho Shatattor, or the numerical figure of 777 that is inscribed on the number plate of the old car of Forkan. The theme of the plot exposes certain harsh realities of our life through activities of humour and light amusement. Viewers get acquainted with shrewd attitudes of public life and receive a clear indication of the fact that in present society nothing is as important as financial solvency in ones' life.

To be exhibited on every Wednesday at 9:30 p.m., the Bangla drama series is a product from Diprovision under the banner of Mask & Dots Production. Renowned dramatist Selim Al-deen has written the script with joint direction from Yousuf Hasan Orko and Minhajur Abul Hayat, Bipasha Hayat, Tawkir Ahmed, Tariq Anam Khan, Azad Abul Kalam and Mosharraf Hossain.

Music

Liverpool to stage George Harrison tribute concert

AFP, Liverpool, England

A tribute concert in memory of the late former Beatle George Harrison is to be staged in his home city of Liverpool later this month, local officials said Monday.

The show is planned in this city in northwest England for February 24, which would have been Harrison's 59th birthday.

Harrison died in November after losing a battle against cancer, leaving in mourning the home of the 'Fab Four' -- Harrison, John Lennon, Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr.

Details of performing artists have yet to be revealed, but organisers have promised "a host of big names".

Announcing the concert, Liverpool City Council leader



Mike Storey described the late musician as a "true man of peace".

He added: "When George Harrison died Liverpool lost one of its most talented musicians."

"He was one of the most influential figures in the music industry over the past 40 years both through his work with The Beatles and then later as a solo writer, performer and film maker."

"Everyone who knew George Harrison knew he was a true Scouser (someone from Liverpool) who never forgot his roots."

"He was a great ambassador for the city and popular culture. A true man of peace whose life was summed up by his final words, which were 'to love one another,'" said Storey.

Art

Monks raise millions at London art auction

AFP, London

THREE paintings donated to an order of monks famed for leading lives of poverty made more than 11 million pounds (15.64 million dollars, 18 million euros) at a British sale, auction house Christie's said Tuesday.

The pictures, including one by Fauve artist Maurice de Vlaminck, which fetched 7.15 million pounds -- an auction record for his work -- and by Impressionists Claude Monet and Pierre-Auguste Renoir, were given to the St Francis of Assisi Foundation by a European art collector.

Money raised from the sale will go towards aid projects the monks run around the world.

De Vlaminck's "La Seine ú Chatou" was the star item when it went under the hammer

at Christie's in London late Monday.

Renoir's "L'Estaque" and Monet's "Golfe d'Antibes" together made over 3.85 million.

All three went to unnamed buyers.

A spokeswoman for the auction house said: "The monks will be delighted with the sale. The bidding was intense, especially with the de Vlaminck, and the total raised was well above the estimate."

"The 11,011,250 pounds raised would certainly buy the monks a lot of robes."

The Daily Telegraph reported the collector had planned to give the paintings to the monks after his death but was persuaded to hand them over beforehand to see the good work the money raised will bring.



Photo of Maurice de Vlaminck's La Seine, a Chatou painting in an art sale in London on February 4, 2002. Three paintings by renowned artists and donation to Franciscan monks were expected to fetch a total of Euros 13.1 million at auction. The artworks by impressionists Claude Monet, Pierre Auguste Renoir and Fauve artist Maurice de Vlaminck were given to the St. Francis of Assisi Foundation by an European art collector