# CULTURE

### The Paily Star

#### Exhibition RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 'Essence of Life' May 24 - 30

Four artists from Bangladesh, India and America holds a joint painting exhibition titled 'Jibon Rasa' or 'Essence of life' using natural colours as ingredients of paint. The exhibition is open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., at Essentials, House 30, Road 42, Gulshan #2.

#### Quamrul-er Ramonira

#### May 17 -31

Entitled 'Quamrul-er Ramonira', a 15-day long painting exhibition by artist Quamrul Hassan is being held at the Shilpangan gallery in the city. The show is open to all from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

#### Calligraphy exhibition

Mav 17 - June 04 A calligraphy exhibition with the works of 24 renowned artists goes on at the lobby of National Museum in the city. The exhibition is open to all daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#### Group art show May 15-29

The High Commission of India Cultural Centre presents a group art show featuring fifteen prominent artists from Chittagong at 754, Satmasjid Road, Dhaka. The show will run daily from 12 noon to 8 p.m.

#### Photography on ship breaking May 18-29

R. Laarsen, a photographer from Sweden and a teacher at Pathshala Photography School, holds a solo exhibition in the city on issues of ship-breaking in Bangladesh. Through his works, Laarsen raise questions those focus on various hazardous and harmful sides of the business including matters of environmental pollution caused by the breaking process. The exhibition is going on at the DRIK gallery in the city and is open daily from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

#### Boutique exhibition

May 20 - 26 Ali's knitwear holds a boutique show along with display of fancy candles, at Ariel center in the city. The show is open daily from 11:00 a.m. to 9 p.m.

## Soothing, soul searching

Abdul Aziz's second solo painting exhibition features Bengali women and nature

#### SAIFUL ISLAM

BDUL Aziz's paintings exhibited at the Zainul Gallery, in the Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka, (from May 16 to 22) are introspective, interesting, and colourful. There are shades on the faces of the characters, on the skylines, on the landscape. The mood is evoked by fairly presenting forms quite detailed; the characters are presented in precision, too. Aziz's study of oriental women, perhaps, is what strikes the eye and mind. All of them speak of the same thing and they speak in the same voice.

The oriental women of Aziz are calm, quite, and always with a tint of depression near their iris. They are looking blank at the distance. Eyes half-shut, a

gloom hanging over the face, emanating dismay, isolation, and disappointment. There is woman in close communion to nature, bird and flower, but she is quite distant from the chirping bird, from the joy around her, from the nature, which is quite



#### Lady with bird

generous. There is women taking care of her beauty, waiting for someone. But the eagerness is absent, it is replaced by an indifference, perhaps, towards each and everyone around." I really don't know why they are morbid. This pose of

depression haunts me and turns up in my paintings," added Aziz. Nature is another important aspect of Aziz's work. In some of his paintings women are blended with the tree. Both of them mute, suffering eternally from the cruel world and its

beings. They never protest. Typical Bengali women are as silent as the trees. " I believe that nature is always looking at us, keeping an eternal vigilance," reflects the painter.

Terracotta works has always inspired Aziz. His nude women

are sculpted on the background like the architectural goddesses, enamoured and striking alluring poses of classical dance

Abstraction is there in a few of his works. The painter thinks that only the presentation of good can bring happiness and piece in the turbulent society. That is why the satire, distorted forms, clinical and cynical presentation of life present in the contemporary paintings are absent in his works. But the depression present in his characters shows the painter's consciousness of the evil around us. This is like an urge to bring out the dullness veering on the patterns of the painter's sub-conscious.

Born in August, 1974, Aziz is presently studying in masters at the Fine arts Institute, in Dhaka. He participated in many solo and group art exhibitions in and outside Dhaka. He has also worked as a designer in the "Daily AI Mujadded" and in the "Daily Banglar Bani."

Event

## **English medium school** upholds Bengali heritage

Maple Leaf International School, a top English medium educational institution holds cultural event in the city



Students of Maple Leaf present chorus at the cultural event

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

colourful cultural program was presented by the students of Maple Leaf International School at Bangladesh Shishu Academy in the city recently.

A large group of young artists, selected from among the students of different grades, took part in performances of patriotic and folk song, dance and poetry-reading. Special feature of the program was a presentation of sketch that was based on illustrious works of various famous poets, litterateurs and singers of the country including rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, Jibanananda Das, Jashimuddin, Shukumar Roy,

Hason Raja, Lalon Shah Fakir, Sikandar Abu Zafar and others. As the gala event neared its end, the child artists paid rich tribute to the Language Martyrs of 1952 recollecting historical occurrences and tragedies those have turned fifty this year. The poem 'Bangla charo' was

tion was followed by a patriotic song 'Ora amar much-er kotha kaira nitey chaey ...' that was presented by a huge group, comprising of all the participating students of the festive cultural event. Zeba Ali, Principal of the school, thanked all concerned

read out by students. The recita-

for providing support and cooperation in holding a memorable event that, as she felt, would certainly be a strong step ahead in establishing firm footage of patriotic feeling in minds of the young students of her school as well among others of the generation.

It may be mentioned that Maple Leaf International School was set up in the early 70's by a group of Canadian philanthropists, who later on, passed the ownership of the institution to Bangladeshis. Zeba Ali, chief of the educational organisation, who believes in a motto of 'Knowledge, Diligence, Progress', successfully runs the school in bases of around ten academic buildings, all of which are located in Dhanmondi.

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Lady with nature

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