

## CULTURAL FEAST

## Cultural Programme

Organisation: Autism Welfare Foundation  
Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy  
Time: April 28, at 3:55pm

## Film Screening

Title: Russian War Films  
Organiser: Jahangirnagar University and the Russian Centre of Science and Culture

Venue: TSC auditorium, Jahangirnagar University  
Time: April 27-28  
Schedule

1pm & 8pm Warlike Romance  
5pm Come and See

## Exhibition

Title: Boichiti  
Artists: Ferdousi Priyobhashini, Raajol, Tabayuzzaman Topu

Venue: British Council, 5, Fuller Road  
Time: April 13-30, 10am to 7pm

Artist: Babul Mahmood  
Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, House 510, Road 7, Dhamondi

Title: April 24-30

Artist: Abdus Salam  
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhamondi  
Time: April 22-30, from 9am to 12pm, 5pm to 9pm

Artist: Biren Shome  
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, House 25, Road 5, Dhamondi  
Time: April 28-May 12, from 10am to 1pm and 5pm to 8pm

Title: Eiffel Tower  
Photographer: Proshanto Karmakar  
Buddha  
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhamondi  
Time: April 15-30, from 9am to 12pm and 5pm to 8pm

Artists: Mazarul Islam Khan, Sudipta Mallick and Subir Obayed of Charon  
Venue: Drift Gallery, House 58, Road 15/A, Dhamondi  
Time: April 26-May 05, from 10am to 5pm

Title: Kamala Shundari  
Group: Natya Tirtha  
Venue: Nilima Ibrahim Auditorium, Bangladesh Mahila Shamit, Bally Road  
Time: April 29, at 7pm

Title: Metamorphosis  
Group: Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT)  
Venue: Goethe-Institut, House 10, Road 9, Dhamondi  
Time: April 28, June 9, 16, 23, 30, at 7pm

Title: Project  
Group: Natyakendra  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy  
Time: April 29, at 7pm

Handicrafts Fair  
Organiser: Autism Welfare Foundation  
Venue: House 428, Road 02, Bayut Amin Housing Society, Shymoli  
Time: April 29, from 10am onwards

Annual Dance Evening  
Group: Nityanchari  
Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy  
Time: April 30, at 7pm

Musical Soiree  
Organiser: Parapar  
Venue: British Council, 5 Fuller Road  
Time: May 2-3, at 7pm

## Painting Exhibition

## Biren's splendid swirls on mixed-media

FAYZA HAQ

BIREN Shome, whose large paintings have been admired by connoisseurs since 1979, at the Zainul Gallery, presents his confident strokes at Shilpangan. His latest feat includes his work on the Liberation War. On his canvas he has brought in themes such as beautiful Bengal before the atrocities of the Pakistan army. He had fled to Muzibnagar in 1971, where he made posters and paintings under the direction of Quamrul Islam and Waheedul Haque.

His work is inspired and daring, as he works at night at the National Herbarium, after office hours. He puts in a layer of oil and then fills in the details with delicate watercolour brushes, broad brushes and spatula, as the mood takes him. He has finished his present display of 60 mixed-media works in two months. Biren looks forward to his retirement, when he can create at will,



Two of Biren's compositions (top and bottom-left)

putting in as many hours as he can.

Biren has included the national flag, upward facing canons and tortured innocent women who have been ravished during 1971 by the Pakistan army. He has also included the pulsating sky and the optimistic sun on the top of the compositions (to usher in the new generation). He has moved on to compositions of under water creatures in which he has included the ripple of waves and underwater slimes to create gorgeous images in turquoise, cobalt blue, jade green, with intermittent flecks of ruby red and yellow ochre. Cascading, rippling and pulsating waves, curls, dots and dashes thus bring in the submarine world. "I work in the Herbarium and so am well acquainted with the underwater flora and fauna. I've included but a mere flamboyant vis-à-vis the other contemporary paintings with the same theme of jet-black crows, seen against the sunset.

Biren's old preoccupation with the beauteous female forms, with folklore features -- holding on to a pigeon or parrot, or a flower is witnessed in two entire rooms of the gallery. The pulsating oranges, emeralds, corals, and Prussian blues present images of women, as once presented by Biren's teachers -- only with lines and colours of his own imagination and experience.

Apart from his paintings, Biren has written a series of successful books on painting for children. These books will hold even adults spellbound.

seen chattering with one another, with Old Dhaka's multi-storeyed buildings framing the subjects. The scintillating sky in the backdrop -- which include twirling blues and bold splashes of egret blue -- bring in the impending dusk with the inclusion of gray. Sure, such scenes have been done by more established artists, like Hashim Khan or Showkatuzzaman, as seen in the recent past in Shilpagan. Biren's treatment, however, is more flamboyant vis-à-vis the other contemporary paintings with the same theme of jet-black crows, seen against the sunset.

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