

## Exhibition

*Buoyant abstracts in collage*

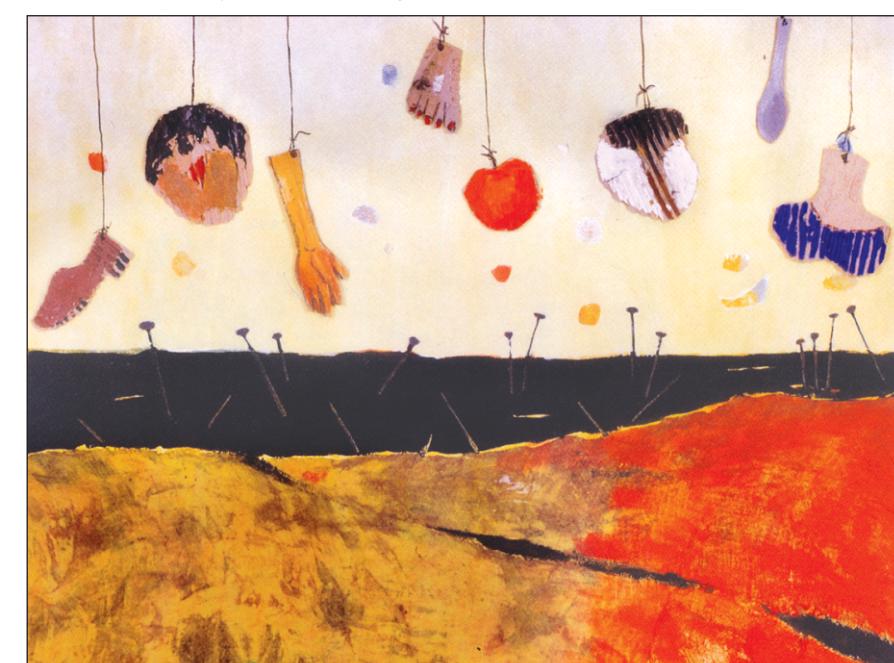
Clockwise (from top-left): Works by Ahmed Shamsuddoha, Shulekha Chowdhury and Tayeba Begum Lipi

FAYZA HAQ

**T**HE exhibition of collage -- comprising works of 16 artists -- guided by master printmaker Monirul Islam, is on at Bengal Gallery. The display, *Collagekalpo*, consists of paintings by Hamiduzzaman Khan, Mohammed Eunus, Aloke Ghosh, Ranjit Das, Ahmed Shamsuddoha, Rafi Haque, Dilara Begum Jolly, Nilufer Chaman, Ronni Ahmed and others.

At a workshop in Savar, Monirul Islam had taught the artists to work with corrugated hardboard paper, burnt and powdered rice, jute ropes and other elements from nature. Monir, speaking to *The Daily Star* before a recent press conference, said, "This workshop was held three years back. Most of the artists involved are from Chittagong, Rajshahi and Dhaka. Coming to Dhaka from Savar at that time, I felt that we have enough local materials that we can use and don't have to hanker after paints not made locally.

"We have colours like indigo, produced



locally and red oxide, which comes from bricks as well as other hues developed from flowers and vegetables. There are other expensive colours too like saffron. It is important that the materials should last despite the adverse weather conditions in Bangladesh. We can use sand and egg shells too, which applied with glue, would make interesting collage. At the same time we should be sure that the techniques don't overwhelm the subject.

"Again, we should experiment and make paintings which are different from the run of the mill. Adding collage gives a dramatic dimension to the work. The workshop was short -- lasting four days only, and within that time the artists produced fantastic work. It was raining in Savar throughout the workshop. This created a romantic setting."

Hamiduzzaman Khan presents a rectangle hanging from a delicate branch of a tree, seen against a corrugated board. The composition is in shades of beige and brown. Aloke Ghosh, who has worked with mixed media, presents delectable forms like parts of a large floral bouquet. Aloke does not usually go in for abstracts but he has experimented with the style here. Mauve, green

and pale jade dominate the selection of colours.

Working with mixed media on canvas, Tarun Ghosh has created a *Bohula* series with tiny scattered motifs in black, white and brown. Using diskettes and applying layers of burn umber, Mohammed Eunus has created an overwhelming abstract collage. Ahmed Shamsuddoha's painting with a tree on a vast expanse of green against pale indigo sky with bubbles floating by, is a delightful image.

Shulekha Chowdhury's *Amar Shomokal* is suspended with intriguing random objects like a shoe, an apple, a hand and a foot. Shades of brown and orange dominate the canvas. Layers of mauve and beige in vertical strokes bring in Shahjahan Ahmed Bikash's creation on board.

Boats in all shapes and sizes, including paper ones, representing childhood memories, dominate Dilara Begum Jolly's collage and acrylic work on canvas. Mauve and indigo, along with pale blue, with a touch of orange complete the composition.

The products of the collage workshop are worth examining. The exhibition ends on May 26.

## Aslam's impressive collection of rare musical instruments



Aslam with some of the antique instruments

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Rezaul Karim Aslam (35) has a collection of some rare and antique musical instruments, some of which are not in use anymore.

Some of these instruments were once in great demand in the sub-continent, considered essential for *sangat* (accompaniment) with classical music. To attain impeccability in performance of classical music, such instruments were considered necessary, however these have lost their appeal in current times.

Aslam, living in Mymensingh, inherited the collection from his father Jalal Uddin, who inherited the instruments from his father late Nabab Ali. Nabab Ali started collecting the items out of personal interest from 1952, when he became the proprietor of Nabab & Co., a renowned shop in Mymensingh, making, selling and repairing musical instruments. Some of these instruments have interesting historic backgrounds.

According to Aslam, "After the Partition (1947) local zamindars as

well as other elite Hindu families migrated to India leaving their belongings behind, including rare musical instruments. Many of these were bought and some were given to his grandfather's shop for repair and were not taken back by their owners for whatever reasons. "In 1991, I took an initiative to repair these instruments and held an exhibition at my shop."

Now Aslam has a collection of 39 musical instruments including *esraj*, *sharinda*, *sarangi*, *surbahar*, *shankh*, *ekta*, *tambura* (popularly known as *taanpura*), *nakara*, *krishnakathi*, *violin*, *swaraj*, *sard*, *mekur* or *meher* (used in *jari gan* and *pala gaan*), *khanjani*, *mondira*, *premijuri* (locally known as *chattu*), *surmondu*, *mandolin*, *been* (used by snake charmers), flutes of different kinds, *laauh* (used by *faqirs* and *sadhus*), *kashar*, *shankho* and *karta*.

Most of the items belonged to the zamindars of Muktagacha and some items were part of the collection of the Bhawal zamindars.

Aslam's impressive collection has been lauded in different corners of the country. "I'm invited to various occasions to exhibit the instruments and I enjoy it much," says Aslam. He was invited at a three-day *Baishakhi* programme held last year at Gulshan Park in Dhaka, arranged by the Bengal Foundation. "My collection was praised by eminent artistes of the country," he says. His collection was also appreciated by noted artists from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka at Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin's 90th birth anniversary celebration in 2004 held at the Shangrahalas in Mymensingh town.

An honorary member of UNESCO, World Crafts Department, Parveen Ahmed requested Aslam to donate his collection to the National Museum. Aslam however, politely refused Parveen's proposal, saying "the collections symbolises the heritage and musical history of the greater Mymensingh region."

## CULTURAL FEAST

## Photography Exhibition

**Title:** Stolen Forests  
**Photographer:** Philip Gain and Ronald Halder  
**Venue:** Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A, Dhamondi  
**Date:** May 18-24  
**Time:** 3pm-8pm

## Solo Art Exhibition

**Title:** Anadi Kumar Boiragi's Quest for Self-Entity  
**Venue:** Gallery Zoom, Alliance Francaise, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi  
**Date:** May 18-31  
**Time:** 9am-12pm, 5pm-9pm

## Collage Workshop

**Title:** Collagekalpo  
**Venue:** Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, House 275/F, Road 27 (old) Dhanmondi  
**Date:** May 20-26  
**Time:** 12pm-8pm

## 10th Dhaka International Film Festival in January

## CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

in the festival. Five international seminars will also be held during the festival.

Different categories in the festival will be 'competition', 'retrospective', 'tributes', 'classics', 'cinema of the world', 'films for children', 'country focus', 'Bangladesh panorama' and 'independent films'.

An independent international jury board will select the winner in the competition section. The award includes a crest, a certificate and an amount of Tk 100,000.

Rainbow Film Society has been organising the festival since 1992.

Stefan Frowein, Ambassador of European Commission, Ingrid T Haug, first secretary at the Norwegian Embassy, poet Rabibul Hossain, filmmaker Badol Rahman, Margub Morshed, Mofidul Haque and KMR Manzur also spoke on the occasion.

Over 150 films from 30 countries including Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Iran, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, USA and Bangladesh will participate in the festival. Celebrity filmmakers and film enthusiasts will also take part

## Daylong Nazrul Mela on Channel-i



To observe the 108th birth anniversary of our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Channel-i will telecast a daylong special programme titled *Nazrul Mela* on May 25. It is the second such initiative taken by Channel-i. The first was held and aired on the 146th birth anniversary of Tagore (May 8), titled *Rabindra Mela*.

*Nazrul Mela* will be held at the Channel-i office in Tejgaon and will feature a variety of Nazrul songs, recitation, discussion and display of books. Several personal items of Nazrul will also be on display, says a press release.

## 'Shrek the Third' sets animation record

The big green ogre keeps getting bigger. *Shrek the Third* took in US \$1.22 million in its first weekend, breaking the franchise's own record for best debut ever for an animated film, according to studio estimates last Sunday.

The latest adventure of the ogre shot past 2004's *Shrek 2*, the previous record-holder for animated openings with \$1.08 million.

Executives at DreamWorks Animation and Paramount had expected *Shrek the Third* to open in range with the debut of *Shrek 2*. Strong business from audiences across the board lifted *Shrek the Third* well above projections.

The movie reunites Mike Myers, who provides the voice of the lovable gruff ogre, and co-stars Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz and Antonio Banderas. Justin Timberlake joins the cast, providing the voice of the future King Arthur, an awkward teen Shrek grooms to rule the land.

However, *Shrek the Third* might have a short reign as the No. 1 movie. On Friday, Disney releases *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*, with Johnny Depp returning as woody buccaneer Jack Sparrow in the franchise's third instalment.

Source: Internet



Shrek (voiced by Mike Myers), Puss-in-Boots (voiced by Antonio Banderas), Artie (voiced by Justin Timberlake), and Donkey (voiced by Eddie Murphy) in *Shrek the Third*

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

ATN Bangla	01:30	Shangbad Potrey
08:15 Ajker Shangbadpotro	01:45	Bangladesh Public Reaction
08:30 Drama Serial: Pichhutan	02:40	Mega Serial: Priobash
09:15 ATN Commentary Box	03:05	i Sports
10:30 Talk Show: Aktel	04:05	Musical Programme
11:05 Drama Serial: Outdoor	04:50	Sa Re Ga Ma
11:35 Three Stooges	05:30	Muktiuddho
12:15 Amar Computer	06:00	Protidin
12:45 Shur O Chhobi	06:20	Drama Serial: Klanto Shomoy
02:30 Talk show	07:50	D Rockstar 2
03:15 Drama Serial: O Amar Chokhu Nai	09:35	Mega Serial: Kobi
03:45 Hattimatim Tim	10:00	RC Travel on Grameenphone
05:00 Gram Gonjer	12:00	Ajker Shangbadpotro
05:20 Aainar Shamne		
06:20 Talk show: Kothamala	12:10	Talk show: Ei Shomoy
08:00 Drama Serial: Moner Janala	01:05	Japan Video Topic
08:45 Drama: Porosh	03:15	Kichu Kotha
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