

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Image
Artist: Mohammad Fokhrul Islam
Venue: Alliance Française, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: May 2-15
Time: 9:00am - 12:00 pm & 5:00pm - 8:00pm
On Saturdays 5:00pm - 8:00pm



Photography Exhibition

Title: Partnership in Practice
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: May 01-10
Time: 3pm-8pm



Art Exhibition

Title: Return to the roots
Artists: 7 Bengali artists from India
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, R 27 (Old), Dhanmondi
Date: April 25-May 9
Time: 12pm-8pm



Theatre

Play: Konjush
Troupe: Loko Natyadal
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: May 4
Time: 7pm



Tête-à-tête

Hodayra's journey into the media



Hodayra Himu

AUREEN AHSAN

TV actress Hodayra Himu plays the role of Sura in the popular drama serial *Chor Kutum* on Channel-i. Recently, Hodayra talked to *The Daily Star* about her journey into the media world and how she would like to see herself in the future.

"Sura is a twenty-year-old belle

of the village, who falls in love with a 45-year-old man, played by Salahuddin Lavlu. They get married and on reaching her in-laws' house she gets to know that Lavlu has already married a few times before," she described her character in the serial. Hodayra confessed that she has always wanted to work with director Salahuddin. "It was quite a task to talk in the

Noakhali dialect in the serial. But, Salahuddin knows how to bring out the best in an actor, and he made it very easy for me," she added.

Hodayra has been with the theater ever since she was in Grade-2 and came to Dhaka in 1999 after completing her H.S.C exams. Her first play was Taher Shipon's *PI*, while she was with the theater group Nagarik Nattayangan. She has also appeared in various commercials of Aktel and Cocola. She feels she is very lucky because of the support she has received from her family despite the fact that no one from her family is in the media world. "My mother has encouraged me throughout, and granted me the freedom to choose this path," she said.

When asked if she wanted to be in the movies she answered, "Of course. Commercial movies are very imaginative-- they have songs, dance sequences, drama, and action all together-- and the viewers like to watch these movies for entertainment."

She admires the acting skills of Rani Mukherjee in *Black* and Subarna Mustafa in *Kothao keu nei*. "I hope I will be able to act like them some day and reach that level of precision and perfection in acting," she hopes.

Hodayra likes to read books and watch her performances on TV during her free time, so that she is able to find her flaws and work on them. Like any other artist, she aspires to be a good actress some day, but not a superstar.

A sure charmer, Hodayra wants to stand beside the underprivileged people and continue to meet the expectations of her fans and family.

Rushing to the rescue of Kuakata

FAYZA HAQ

In aid of the cyclone Sidr affected children of Kuakata an art camp was held at Kuakata at the end of February 2008. Participating were known artists. Their works were exhibited at Alliance Française and Drik Gallery under the title "Resurrecting Kuakata". At the end of the exhibition an auction was held. The sale proceeds of which went to charity.

Among the paintings were those of Ranjit Das, Md. Eunus, Tarun Ghosh, Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed, Sheikh Ahsan Ullah Mojumdar, Dominic Gomez, Mahbubur Rahman, Tayeba Begum Lipi, Nazia Andaleeb Preema, Ronni Ahmed, Kazi Sayed Ahmed and Sarkar Nahid Niaz Nipu.

This was a fantasy in pink, white, black and indigo bringing in wild creatures in flight against a pink and white sky. Ranjit won the Grand award in the 7th Asian Biennale in 1995. He has 19 solos and 70 group exhibitions to his credit.

Md. Eunus's painting is an art work that presents a combination of geometrical shapes -- rectangles stretching for left to right. Tiny touches of red, blue and yellow relieve the expanse of gray and black. His major awards include a prize from Dubai, UAE in 2005, the Shilpakala Best Award in 2005, Grand Prize in Tokyo in 1989, Best Award for Abstract from Georgia International Miniature Art Competition in 1991. He has participated in over 100 group exhibitions.

Broad brush strokes of gray, blue and brown, along with a few dots and squiggles are seen Tarun Ghosh's painting. In 1996 Tarun won the Best Award in the national art exhibition organized by Shilpakala Academy and got a gold medal in the seventh Asian Art Biennale in 1997.

Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed's "Urbanization" which dealt with old Dhaka also contributed to the exhibition with its bright rhythmic colours of oranges, yellows and greens. He disorganises and displaces elements to bring a new



Artworks from the exhibitions

order. He combines the inner world with the awareness of the place he lives in.

A flow of brown -- intermittently touched with blue and orange -- is seen in Sheikh Ahsan Ullah Mojumdar's expanse of white in "Revealing the peace". Apart from winning 15 international and 31 national awards, including seven gold medals for painting and sculpture, he has recently won the Commendation Award in "Berger award for Excellence in Architecture".

Dripping streaks of gray, yellow and black are found in Dominic Gomez's "On its own accord." Dominic taught art and art history in the US, and now heads the Fashion Design at a local private university.

Mahbubur Rahman's "Black princess from Kuakata" is a fanta-

sia of tulips, birds and human figures, specially women in black veils. Actual human dolls with tulip motifs on them are included in the composition. He has received around 17 National and International Grants and Awards.

"Ophelia from Kuakata" by Tayeba Begum Lipi has eerie, veiled figures and that of a floating woman, surrounded by pink water lilies set in a backdrop of indigo. Lipi has had four solos and several group exhibitions at home and overseas.

"Searching for life", "Horse with no name" by Nazia Andaleeb Preema and Ronni Ahmed add to the luster for the exhibition. So does Kazi Sayed Ahmed's jute creation and Nahid Niaz Nipu's renditions of wood pieces and locks.

Winehouse working on 'Bond theme'

Amy Winehouse is working on a theme song for the forthcoming James Bond film with Mark Ronson, the producer has confirmed to the BBC.

But Ronson said there are no guarantees the track will be used for *Quantum Of Solace* as they have not been officially signed up to release the song.

"Hopefully it will get used. We're working on it and we'll see happens," the producer told BBC 6Music.

Ronson also said he is working with Winehouse on her new album.

He said it was Winehouse who was first approached about the Bond theme tune.

"They asked Amy, and I think Amy said that if she did it, she'd want to do it with me. So hopefully something will come of it," he told the station's MusicWeek's show.

"The demo sounds like a James Bond theme, hopefully. But I don't know if it'll get used."

He added: "I'm sure there are loads more really famous people that probably we're competing with and we don't know about. I'm not sure."

"But hopefully I'll still be alive for at least 12 more Bond themes. If we don't get this one maybe we'll get another one."

Source: Internet

Erratum

In the article "Making the nation laugh", printed on April 30, the name of Ishtiaque Hossain as founder editor and publisher of the satire magazine *Unmad* was inadvertently dropped. The error is regretted.

Cher reveals Tom Cruise crush



Tom Cruise with Cher in the '80s

In what sounds like a real-life, all-star version of *The Graduate*, Cher is now admitting to having acted upon a long-ago crush on the much younger Tom Cruise.

Their happy time together took place just as Cruise, now 45, was kicking off his career 25 years ago, the 61-year-old diva told Oprah Winfrey for an upcoming show taped in Las Vegas.

"I was so crazy about him," says Cher, who was 39 when she reportedly met the 23-year-old Cruise at a White House fund-raiser in the mid-'80s, not long after his breakthrough role in 1983's *Risky Business*.

Instantly smitten with the young actor, Cher recalls, "He was so wonderful... And he was so, like, different."

The *Las Vegas Review-Journal* reports that at the time they got together, Cher was already an established star, while Cruise was

a struggling actor.

Looking back, Cher remembers, "He was a shy boy. He didn't have any money. One night we walked into this restaurant in New York and this waitress came up and she took our order and stuff like that and he said, 'I knew that girl in school and she wouldn't give me the time of day.'"

Winfrey's audience particularly appreciated Cher's remembrance of the "long date" she spent with Cruise -- "I lived in his apartment," she tells Winfrey -- which elicited cheers from the crowd, reports Britain's *Daily Mail*.

According to the Oprah.com Web site, the interview with Cher was taped recently at the Colosseum at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, where Cher will begin headlining on May 6. Her Oprah interview will air soon.

Source: Internet

Dhaka auditions of "Close up 1" begins

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The audition rounds of the talent hunt *Close up 1 Gao Bangladesh Gao* are nearing a conclusion.

The audition rounds in Dhaka began on April 29. A total of 20,000 participants are taking part in Dhaka auditions, being held at the Bangladesh Institute for Administration and Management (BIAM).

All together 22 judges -- Jalal Ahmed, Anup Bhattacharya, Shujee Shyam, Anisur Rahman Tanu, Monwar Hossain Tutul, Muhammad Jalal Ahmed, Muhammad Shahnewaz, Selim Ashraf, Sujit Mustafa, Anup Barua, Mesbah Rahman and others -- are evaluating the performances of the participants.

As Jalal Ahmed said, "In the rounds we come across many talented participants with wonderful voices. Unfortunately not everyone gets a 'Yes' card, partly because most of them are not dedicated singers. Also they

didn't go to a teacher for lessons; again some didn't devote adequate time to practice, which is the most vital element of singing."

One of the judges Fakir Shabuddin said "When a participant is singing, he seeks to imitate the style of certain artists. However, there is a possibility that the artist himself who taught had a flaw."

"To avoid this, my advice would be 'Build up the habit of listening to songs of the original singers, and take care when choosing a teacher,'" Fakir added.

So far 83 contestants have received the 'Yes' card in the Dhaka audition rounds, which will continue till May 7.

The audition rounds from the waiting list will be held from May 8-11.

The selection rounds will start from May 12 at FDC. Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul, Fahmida Nabi and Partho Barua of Souls will be the judges at the selection round.



Some of the contestants who receive 'YES' card

Training workshop on dance at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) arranges a fortnight long training workshop on dance from May 6, says a press release. Eminent dance artistes and directors Shamim Ara Nipa and Shibli Mohammad will conduct the workshop.

Different cultural organisations of the country can send maximum of two senior dance artistes or trainers to attend the workshop. Selected names should be sent to the Director, training department, BSA. Individual dance artistes (minimum age 14 years) can also apply for the workshop. Registration and interview will be held at the rehearsal room of Music and Dance Centre on May 5 at 10 am.



Shamim Ara Nipa and Shibli Mohammad

Baishakhi open-air concert in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A Baishakhi open-air concert was held in Tangail town recently.

Haji Abul Hossain Institute of Technology (HABHIT) arranged the concert at Tangail Stadium to welcome the new Bengali Year 1415.

Close Up 1 star singers Mohit, Mila, rock singer Amin and local rock artiste Lemon performed modern and band songs in the concert.

Earlier, Tangail Additional District Magistrate (ADM) M Tariqul Islam, acting chairman of Tangail municipality Jafar Ahmed; former general secretary of Zila Shilpakala Academy Harun-ur-Rashid; HABHIT Chairman Sanwar Hossain and its executive director Ashraf Hossain spoke at the event.

Thousands of people enjoyed the concert.

Private TV Channel Baishakhi was the media partner of the event.



Audience enjoy the concert

PHOTO: STAR