

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Image
Artist: Mohammad Fokhrul Islam
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 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



Exhibition

Union of Uniqueness

ERSHAD KAMOL

An 18-day group exhibition by Bangladeshi artist Javed Jalil and Indian artist Avijit Mukherjee is going on at Art Club, at Gulshan. The exhibition, inaugurated by High Commissioner of India Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty, has been jointly organised by Art Club of Bangladesh and Kolkata based Creative Art and Craft Centre. Earlier the organisations jointly arranged another exhibition in Mumbai.

A total of 51 art works-- 30 by Avijit Mukherjee and 21 by

Javed Jalil-- are on display. The title of the exhibition-- Union of Uniqueness-- is significant. Both the artists' expressions are unique and deal with human emotion.

Subtle colours are used just to create the required environment of Javed Jalil's paintings. Dealing with the psyche of the figures, Jalil addresses the contemporary social milieu, where human emotion is animalistic.

Javed Jalil basically focuses on line. His paintings are not just mere nude women figures. Rather through different types of

lines Jalil creates several symbols and forms on the figures, which represents the inner emotions such as various facets of desire, reaction, urge to survive in midst of turmoil, pain, tension and anxiety.

On the other hand, Avijit Mukherjee presents human emotions through creating different layers on the figures. Sometimes he unveils the organs under the skin to represent emotion. Vibrant colours have been used on his acrylic canvases. In case of other mediums Mukherjee uses light colours.

In the texture and imagery visual concept of Mukherjee's canvas, desire comes through poetic messages-- tranquil sublimity of human imagination, passion, nostalgic journey from past to present in its sphere of human imagination, love and childhood dreams.

But his treatment is interesting in the sense that the fantasy created on the canvases has got the power to diffuse imagination in a materialistic world.

The Exhibition will end on May 7.



Art works by Avijit Mukherjee (L) and Javed Jalil (R)

When music is the musician's soul

Mahjabeen's pianoforte

FAYZA HAQ

Mahjabeen Rahman has been teaching at the Ecole de Musique, Alliance Francaise for nine years, apart from her career as an English Language teacher at Stamford University. She's been into music since her childhood and plays the flute plus sings in concerts and churches. She has had training in both eastern (Rabindra Shangeet and Nazrul Shangeet) and western classical and contemporary music.

Although she is currently studying English Language Teaching as well as music in Malaysia, she flies in regularly to Dhaka to teach her students, who are mostly young. Mahjabeen caters not only to the upper echelons of Dhaka

society but also the not the so well-to-do, teaching for charity as the occasion calls for. This year, for the "Fete de la Musique" at Alliance Francaise, she hopes to present guitar, flute and voice for the entertainment of music enthusiasts. She hopes to do her PhD either in UK or in France or even in the US-- going in for higher studies in both music and English Language Teaching.

Speaking to "The Daily Star", sitting in the well-lit Café Veranda, over a cup of steaming coffee, the buoyant and spirited music enthusiast recounts her experiences and talks of her hopes and aspirations, specially in the field of music. Asked if she preferred to teach, learn or play the piano, Mahjabeen says, "I prefer teaching as I can transmit my

knowledge and create more awareness of music and musicians."

"I also love to sing for myself as well as a member of choirs, which I've been doing for five years. Through my experience in singing, I came to know about modern progression in music. Also, when I was in choir, my practical application of theoretical learning expanded, as we sang in different parts, while I myself mostly sang in mezzo soprano."

In her experience as a teacher of music for nine years, her forming of the Ecole de Musique for piano, she dreamt of having other instruments as well, such as the guitar and violin. Today there is the classical guitar to accompany piano and voice in the school. She says that she dreams of the greater awareness of western music among young people is coming true.

"Every concert that I direct each year is memorable to me," says Mahjabeen. "I plan to play in the coming concert in 2008 with my student Elita Karim. This year too, like all the years, I train my students in preparation of the yearly fete. I'm selecting music pieces and preparing the students' voices in anticipation of the concert. I hope to give them a vigorous training after four months, revising everything," Mahjabeen says.

Asked about her overseas experience, she enumerates her Master lessons, "I'll study music along with English at Nottingham or in the US. My formal studies will have music as a second interest." Her main interest is music as music is her soul, as Mahjabeen puts it, "It is the reason of my living and the reason to go on in life. When I began professional training I was already in a different track, i.e. English Literature. Now that I'm into ELT for six years (English Language Teaching) I feel I've wasted some of my years."

As a student of Dhaka International Music School -- which had Korean and Bangladeshi teachers -- she and her group trained under privileged children at Mirpur, "New Sprout" for almost a year, and this is what she finds most memorable.



Mahjabeen at the piano

PHOTO: STAR

Shooting of "Rupantor" underway

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The cinematography of Abu Sayeed's latest venture *Rupantor* is almost complete. The shooting commenced on April 9. The various scenes have been shot at Madhutila Eco-Park in Sherpur and the premises of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC). The film features dance sequences by several *santal* artistes and the participation of *adivasi* artistes.

A special sequence involving the participation of around ten horses is yet to be shot. According to Abu Sayeed, Bangladesh Police Force has been approached for the supply of those horses, but they have not yet showed any response. "We will be extremely grateful if they cooperate with us concerning this matter," the filmmaker said. Sayeed has a lot of expectations from this film and believes it to be an assessment of his skills. "I plan to complete the film by June and hope that the audience will appreciate my work," he added.

Rupantor is Abu Sayeed's fifth film and one of the three films that has received grant from the government this year. The film revolves around the characters of Arif and Shaila. Arif is a young filmmaker and Shaila is his assistant. Arif sets out to make a film about the character of *Ekalavya* from the epic *Mahabharata*. During their journey, Arif and Shaila delve deep into the story and reach a new reality. Ferdous, Sohana Saba, Shakiba, Jayanta Chattopadhyay, Habibur Rahman Habib, Sajib Kaiser Mithun, Bikram Saha and Shatabdi Wadud play the various roles of the movie.

Scenes from the film *Rupantor*

Business Hour on Baishakhi

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Business based TV programme *Business Hour*, will be aired on Baishakhi Television tonight at 10:30pm. The show involves discussions on the country's economy, trade and commerce.

The programme features

live discussions, corporate news, company profiles, and a special segment on successful businessmen "Business Personality". Mesbah Ahmed is the scriptwriter and A. K. M. Shueb hosts the show. The programme is telecast live every Sunday and Wednesday at 10:30 pm.



A scene from the show

Moore film opens Cannes festival

Blindness, a thriller starring Julianne Moore, is to open the Cannes Film Festival in France this month.

Based on a novel by Nobel Prize-winning author Jose

Saramago, the movie focuses on a town, which is hit by a sudden epidemic of sight-loss.

The comedy drama *What Just Happened*, starring Robert de Niro, Bruce Willis, and Sean Penn, will close the festival.

De Niro will also present the Palme d'Or prize, awarded by the event's special jury, on 25 May.

Actor Sean Penn leads this year's jury, which also contains actress Natalie Portman and former Harry Potter director Alfonso Cuarón.

Between them, they will decide which film takes home the prestigious prize.

Last year's Palme d'Or went to the Romanian abortion drama *4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days*.

Outside the competition, the new Indiana Jones movie - *The Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* - will receive its premiere at the festival, while Woody Allen will screen his latest romance, *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*.

The festival, which is the 61st in Cannes, begins on 14 May.

Source: BBC



Julianne Moore



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Artiste Syed Abu Zakir Emon presented an exceptional performance titled "Pratifolon ebong pratifolon jonito protikriya" (Reflection and the reactions it invokes) on May 2 at the TSC of Dhaka University and Shahbag area of the city. With his sculpture-like appearance, eccentric approach and incomprehensible language, Emon's performance startled the viewers and passers-by. According to the artiste, the performance was indeed an attempt to shock the city inhabitants who lead a structured, monotonous life, without questioning the meaning of it. Emon is a former student of the Institute of Fine Arts.