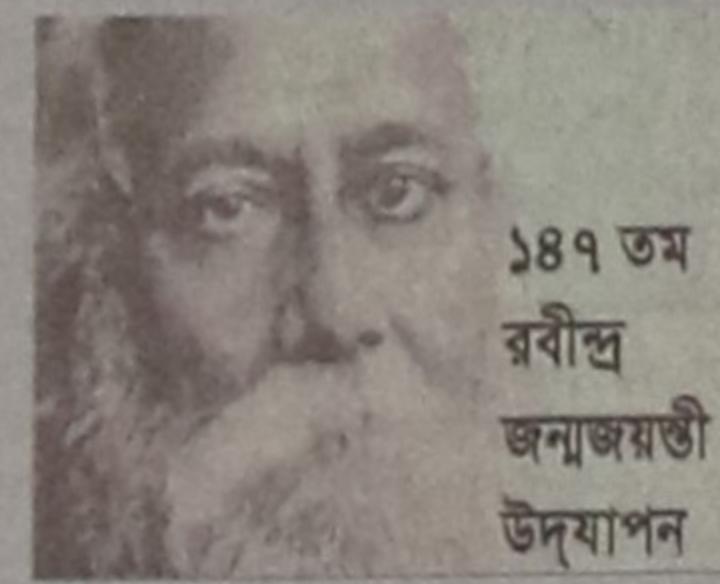


WHAT'S
ON THIS
WEEK

Tagore Birth Anniversary
Organiser: Bangladesh Rabindra Sangit Shilpi Sangsta
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbag
Date: May 7-8, May 7, 5:30pm Inauguration, Kobi Bandana, 6:00pm Musical soiree and recitation



Tagore Birth Anniversary
Organiser: Nandan
Venue: Chhayanat Sanskriti Bhawan, House-72, Road-15A, Dhanmondi
Date: May 10
Time: 6:45 pm



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



Drawing Exhibition
Organiser: Institute of Fine Arts
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University
Date: May 4-10
Time: 11am-8pm

DRAWING EXHIBITION

Mrinal Haque's "Protasha" to be unveiled today

ERSHAD KAMOL

Renowned sculptor Mrinal Haque has been beautifying Dhaka City by installing sculptures and murals at the several busy and important points, which gives relief for the city dwellers. His latest venture *Protasha*, near Bango Bazar, will be inaugurated today by the Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Sadeq Hossain Khoka.

The 47-feet concrete made sculpture features a huge rifle, tied by a rope which is also made of concrete. On the top of the rifle a globe is set. And upon the globe there are two flying pigeons. And at the basement of the rifle, there are images of five Freedom Fighters. The figures represent a peasant, a student, an army personnel an intellectual and a woman. The whole structure is set in front of a big tree. The burning sun setting behind the figures creates the impression of our National Flag.

The sculptor said, "The beautification cell of Dhaka City Corporation approached me to do the work. The spirit of our Liberation War, especially the participation of people from all sectors of the society, is evident in the sculpture. The aim of the artwork *Protasha* is to deliver an anti-war message. We want peace not war in the world."

Recently, another sculpture by Mrinal Haque was inaugurated in front of Hotel Sheraton. Mrinal said, "To celebrate the 400th anniversary of historical town Dhaka another sculpture titled *Rajoshik* has been installed, in which figures of Nawab Salimullah and his family have been created on a horse carriage."

So far sculptor Mrinal Haque has installed nine such works in Dhaka city. Balaka at Motijheel intersection, sculptures and murals at Bangladesh Rifles Headquarter Gate, sculpture and mural at Rajbari Police Line Headquarter, murals at the VVIP terminal at the Dhaka International Airport, chain made car at Tejgaon intersection and others in Dhaka city.

Again, Subarna Jayanti Tower at Rajshahi University to celebrate the golden jubilee of Rajshahi University was made by him. His latest work is a sculpture at Chapainawabganj in memory of Bir Sreshtha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir.

About his motivation of beautifying cities sculptor Mrinal Haque said, "During my seven years (from 1996 to 2003) stay in the USA, I was one of the artists appointed by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs in the USA for the beautification of the city. I was the only Bangladeshi. Later I thought that I should do something for my own country."

"I want to take art from the living rooms of the elite to the masses. I dream that the whole Dhaka City becomes my gallery. That is why I have done a lot of roadside murals. Making profit through the sculptures to beautify the city is not my interest. I do it to be remembered by the people," he added.

Most of his recent sculptures are made of fiber glass. About the reason behind using the medium Mrinal said, "Drug addicts in Dhaka city steal the costly materials from the artworks. Fibre glass is comparatively cheap and long lasting. And there is no chance of it being stolen."

On his other ongoing projects Mrinal Haque informed that he is installing another beautification work covering a huge area titled *Atolante Bashoti* opposite to the Navy Head Quarter. He is setting live figures of 40/50 feet size whales, sharks and other sea creatures. In his words, "Under sea atmosphere will be created through light and sound effect, which will be a great source of outdoor entertainment for people."

Sculptor Mrinal Haque believes that there is an enormous scope for quality works to beautify the city. He said, "At present I'm approaching DCC with my unique proposals. And, I'm collecting the sponsors for the works. I believe that the corporate companies should patronise more such creative works."

Sculptor Mrinal Haque won the Honourable Mention Award in the 12th Asian Art Biennale, Bangladesh in 2006 for his sculpture titled "Come for education... Go for..."



Protasha, by sculptor Mrinal Haque

Movie Watch

"Iron Man": Heavy suit, light touches

The world at the moment does not suffer from a shortage of superheroes. And yet in some ways the glut of anti-evil crusaders with cool costumes and troubled souls takes the pressure off of *Iron Man*, which has been released ahead of *Hellboy*, *Batman* and the *Incredible Hulk*. This summer those guys are all in sequels or re-dos, so *Iron Man* (a Marvel property not to be confused with the "Man of Steel", who belongs to DC and who's taking a break this year) has the advantage of novelty in addition to a seasonal headstart.

And *Iron Man*, directed by Jon Favreau (*Elf*, *Zathura*), has the advantage of being an unusually good superhero picture. Or at least -- since it certainly has its problems -- a superhero movie that's good in unusual ways. The film benefits from a script (credited to Mark Fergus, Hawk Ostby, Art Marcum and Matt Holloway) that generally chooses clever dialogue over manufactured catchphrases and lumbering exposition, and also from a crackerjack cast that accepts the filmmakers' invitation to do some real acting rather than just flex and glower and shriek for a paycheck.

There's some of that too, of course. The hero must flex and furrow his brow; the bad guy must glower and scheme; the girl must shriek and fret. There should also be a sceptical but supportive friend. Those are the rules of the genre, as unbreakable as the pseudoscientific principles that explain everything (An arc reactor! Of course!) and the Law of the bald villain. In *Iron Man* it all plays out more or less as expected, from the trial-and-error building of the costume to the climactic showdown, with lots of flying, chasing and noisemaking in between.

What is less expected is that Favreau, somewhat in the manner of those sly studio-era craftsmen who kept their artistry close to the



Robert Downey Jr. in *Iron Man*

ous, but since Tony is played by Robert Downey Jr., he's almost immediately authentic and familiar.

Tony's sceptical friend is Rhodey, an Air Force officer played with good-humoured sidekick weariness by Terrence Howard. The girl is one Pepper Potts (Gwyneth Paltrow, also evident good humour), Tony's smitten, ultra competent assistant. His partner and sort-of-mentor in Stark Enterprises is Obadiah Stane, played by Jeff Bridges with wit and exuberance.

These are all first-rate actors, and Downey's antic energy and emotional unpredictability bring out their agility and resourcefulness. Within the big, crowded movements of this pop symphony is a series of brilliant duets that sometimes seem to have the swing and spontaneity of jazz improvisation. Downey and Paltrow on the dance floor; Downey and Howard drinking sake on an airplane;

Downey and Shaun Toub working on blueprints in a cave; Downey and Mr. Bridges sparring over a box of pizza.

Those moments are what the audience is likely to remember. The plot is serviceable, which is to say that it's placed at the service of the actors (and the special-effects artists), who deftly toss it around and sometimes forget it's there.

Iron Man, in spite of the heavy encumbrances Tony must wear when he turns into the title character, is distinguished by light touches and grace notes.

And everything works pretty well. But even dazzling, computer-aided visual effects, these days, are not so special. And who doesn't have superpowers? Actually, Iron Man doesn't; his heroism is all handicraft, elbow grease and applied intelligence. Those things account for the best parts of *Iron Man* as well.

Source: The New York Times

Classical music at Goethe-Institut

JAMIL MAHMUD

To observe the 12th death anniversary of Ustad Abed Hossain Khan, a noted classical music exponent, Ustad Ayet Ali Khan Sangeet Niketan (UAAKSN) arranged a classical music programme and discussion at the Goethe-Institut Bangladesh on May 3. Members of the music institution performed several instrumental presentations at the programme.

Eminent sitar player and celebrated music director of Bangladesh, Ustad Abed Hossain Khan was born in Brahmanbaria in 1929. Eldest son of Ustad Ayet Ali Khan, Ustad Abed was involved with Radio Bangladesh for 36 years. He was a professor at the Music College and had written several research-oriented books on music. Ustad Abed had also mastered the *sard* as well. He earned accolades for his music composition for the film *Nodi O Nari* directed by Professor Humayun Kabir.

In 1985, he received the Ekushey Padak for his contribution to music. The founding member of UAAKS, Ustad Abed passed away in 1996.

Commenting on his contribution to our music, poet Zahidul Haque, one of the discussants at the programme said, "The family of Abed Hossain Khan made



Artists of UAAKS perform in the orchestra

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

immense contribution to our music. Maestros like Ustad Alauddin Khan, Ustad Ayet Ali Khan, Ustad Mobarak Hossain Khan and Ustad Shahadat Hossain Khan from this family are all prominent names in our classical music arena."

Ustad Mobarak Hossain Khan, younger brother of Ustad Abed Hossain Khan and son of Ustad Ayet Ali Khan, presided over the programme. Ustad Mobarak Hossain Khan is the current president of UAAKS.

Wife of the Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Genevieve Foskett was the chief guest at the programme.

The musical performance started with an orchestration featuring *sard*, *sitar*, violin, tabla and guitar. Artistes of UAAKS took part in the performance. Ustad Shahadat Hossain Khan directed the orchestra.

This was followed by a solo *sitar* performance by Reenat Fauzia. Fauzia, daughter of Ustad Mobarak Hossain Khan, performed *Raaga Sohini*. Sanjib Majumder accompanied her on the *tabla*.

The next performance was a *tabla lahara*. The audience applauded enthusiastically after the incredible performance.

The programme wrapped up with a group performance featuring *sard* and *sitar*. *Sard* player Ustad Shahadat Hossain Khan along with his twin daughters -- Rukhsana Khan on *sard* and Afzana Khan on *sitar* -- performed *Raaga Desh*.

Earlier an audio CD of classical music by Ustad Shahadat Hossain Khan was launched. Torsten Oertel, director of Goethe-Institut launched the CD.

Celebrating 400 episodes of "Amar Chhobi"

NADIA SARWAT

The 400th episode of the film-based show *Amar Chhobi* was aired on May 1 on Channel-i. On the occasion, a get together was held at the Star Cineplex, Bashundhara City Mall on May 4. Eminent media and cultural personalities attended the event to congratulate the *Amar Chhobi* team.

Rather than focusing on just the movie stars, *Amar Chhobi* tries to highlight several aspects of Bangladeshi cinema through extended research, documentations, interviews with veteran and emerging filmmakers, actors, producers, music directors, playback singers, cinematographers and more. So far, 223 film personalities have been highlighted on different episodes of the show; some of them have passed away in the course of time.

Featuring an interview with film director A.J. Mintor, the first episode of the show was aired on January 2, 2000. The show is jointly directed by Shamin Alam Dipen and Shafizaman Khan Lodi. Lodi is the anchor of the show.

Among the guests present at the event were: artists Qayum Chowdhury and Hashem Khan; litterateurs Rabeya Khutun, Imdadul Haque Milan; film directors Soovas Dutt, Chashi Nazrul Islam, Badal Rahman and Golam Rabbani Biplob; media personality Afzal Hossain; cine-journalist and screenplay writer Ahmed Jamal Chowdhury; actor Ilias Kanchan; eminent playback singer Khurshed Alam; documentary filmmaker Manzar-e-Hasin Murad and others.

"*Amar Chhobi* has become an archive of our



Eminent media personalities at the event

film history. Apart from Dipen and Lodi, thanks goes also to Faridur Reza Sagar, managing director of Impress Telefilm Ltd for supporting the show," said Badal Rahman.

Qayum Chowdhury said, "When we grew up, lots of quality films were made in Bangladesh. Contradicting the popular proverb, 'Morning shows the day', the film industry has gone through a long patch of depressive years. However, the scenario is changing, by bringing forth the rich history of our films, *Amar Chhobi* has made significant contributions."

"A bit of madness and passion for work is

needed to do anything creative, I think Lodi and Dipen posses that madness. Kudos to Faridur Reza Sagar as well, for indulging into their madness," Afzal Hossain said.

Lodi and Dipen also shared their experiences and feelings at the event. An inspiring declaration came from Faridur Reza Sagar that, from now on, any print and electronic media can use footages from *Amar Chhobi*.

The 400th episode of *Amar Chhobi* was screened at the event. Afterwards, the award-winning film *Swapnodanay* by Golam Rabbani Biplob was also screened.

Aamir Khan injured while shooting



Popular singer-composer Hyder Husyn does not usually compose songs for other artistes nowadays. But recently he has composed music for his friend, singer Anu Rahman. The recording was done at the Bengal Studio in Baridhara recently. "What inspired me most was the lyric that portrays the simple charms of the village life," said Husyn about his latest venture. The song will hopefully strike a chord with music lovers, he added.

Water Kingdom will be reserved on 6th May '08 for the Lokobima Division 10 Year Celebration of MEGHNA LIFE INSURANCE CO. LTD.

From 7th May '08 Water Kingdom will remain open for all.

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