

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Painting Exhibition

of Leading Artists of Bangladesh
Venue: Gallery Chitrak, H 21, R 4, Dhamondi
Date: May 16-20



Theatre

Play: Rokto Karobi
Troupe: Nagarik Natya Sampadaya
Venue: Mahila Samiti Auditorium, Natak Swarani
Date: May 20
Time: 7pm



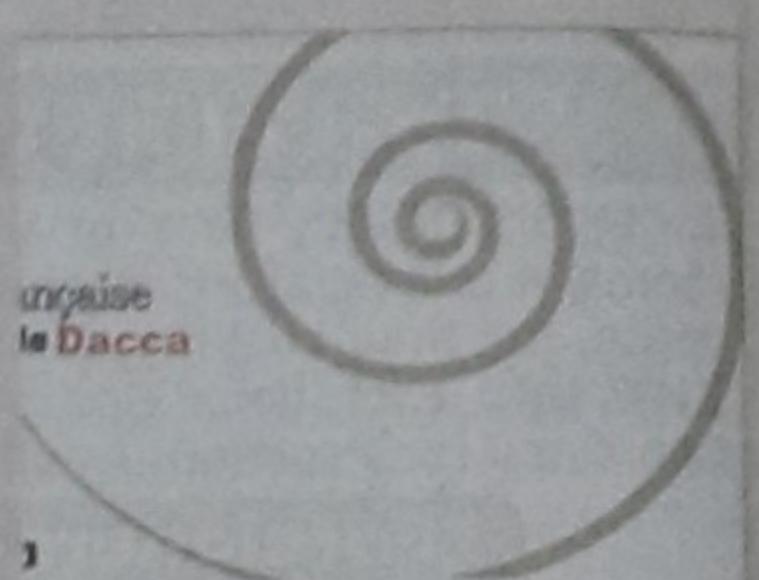
Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: The Dance of Life on the Horizon
Artist: Mahmudul Haque
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 285/F, R 27 (old), Dhamondi
Date: May 16-30
Time: 12pm-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Rhythm & Nature
Artist: Zahid Hossain
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhamondi
Date: May 9-22



Saying it with clay

Tête-à-tête with ceramist Rehana Akter Nayan

NIVEDITA RAITZ VON FRENTZ

Inaugurated a little over three years ago, her shop *Clay Image* in Dhamondi's Sunrise Plaza, teems with fabulous pieces, each one unique by virtue of being hand made. It comes as no surprise therefore, that the proprietor Nayan, reflects the art contained within.

She had always wanted to be a doctor, but followed an inner instinct to try her luck at Charukala. Specialising in ceramics, Nayan completed her Bachelors in Fine Arts in 2002, but discontinued her Masters due to pressure from her business, a venture she had embarked upon while still an undergraduate. Her first Charukala award was also responsible for her branching out into commercial ceramics.

It started with a table and a manually-operated potter's wheel in her parents' garage. She took over part of the roof terrace; her father likened her to "an occupying power," as Nayan's expansion plans continued unabated. A kiln was built behind the house and she continued to work in this studio until her final year at Charukala. Perfecting the bisquet firing technique at her home-made kiln, Nayan felt frustrated when she was unable to match this success with glaze firing. "The glaze just wouldn't melt." Undaunted, in 2003 she converted an ancestral house into a factory, where she lived for one year until she could follow the ceramics process through to completion, with high glaze firing. "It was a very emotional moment. I guess it could be compared to childbirth."

Clay bought in bulk at Old Dhaka's Mitford area is steeped in



Ceramic works by Rehana Akter Nayan

water for a month and re-worked. The piece is prepared at the wheel and left to dry at room temperature. Then comes the exciting bit, the first or bisquet firing, where the piece is burnt at low temperatures (700-900°C). After its removal from the kiln, the piece is

washed, dried and hand painted using ceramics colours. Nayan concocts a special stoneware glaze from a mixture of chemicals, into which the piece is immersed before the second and final, high glaze firing at 1200-1250°C.

Winning the "Media Best Award"

three years running, in her second, third and fourth years at Charukala gave Nayan the boost she needed, and was the driving force behind her first exhibition in 2004, hectically coinciding with the September opening of *Clay Image*. "I was thrilled to have won the awards and even more amazed at the sale of my work at their first showing."

Soon after, in early 2005 her second exhibition, cleverly titled 1200 °C, opened at Galleri Kaya, followed by a private viewing at the Netherlands Embassy. 2005 was a busy year, with her last exhibition taking place in Chittagong. As expected, the rigours of upgrading her factory have made it difficult to organise more exhibitions, but Nayan is satisfied that her art has developed to her liking.

"For success in hand made ceramics, one needs the right equipment, skill and observation. Without perfection, there can only be rejection. Each piece is like an intensive care patient, needing constant nursing. It is the result of a joint effort, from the person who mixes the clay, to the ceramist."

Today, Nayan has 20 employees and three electric wheels at her disposal. She is glad to be able to support the work of a traditional potter, so that the ancient art is not lost. Ceramics is an expensive profession, requiring plenty of financial investment. Nayan has plans to streamline her factory and of course, hold further exhibitions. "Ceramics is like an addiction for me," Nayan has very capably turned her addiction into a flourishing business.

The writer is a freelance contributor

Movie Watch

"Before the Rains": No trailblazing in jungle

Rahul Bose (left) and Linus Roache in Santosh Sivan's period drama *Before the Rains*

Before the Rains, director Santosh Sivan's drama set in 1937 India, is a hodgepodge in the Raj -- a predictable patchwork of forbidden romance, English arrogance, a gun given as a gift, suicide, corruption, deception, rising Indian nationalism and a short-lived chase through the jungle.

It's a film where characters are always engaged in something symbolic, whether building roads to forge a modern India or discussing "above the healing power of water after committing adultery. There's also a mention of "sacred" dragonflies, an insect supposedly inhabited by our spirits after death.

Sivan, a veteran cinematographer, won justifiable praise for his 1999 Tamil-language film, *The Terrorist*, about a young woman sent on a suicide assassination mission. But the seemingly larger budget of *Before the Rains* -- it is "presented by" Merchant Ivory

Productions -- seems to prove that more does not always mean more.

The new film has several Merchant Ivory hallmarks, namely convincing use of period clothing, cars, hairdos and music. And Sivan -- given his terrific eye for cinematographic detail -- uses far more restraint than expected in the use of lush landscape to establish mood. The film starts with lovely images of early morning fog rolling through the lush hills of Kerala, in southern India, but then moves swiftly to the characters engineering the drama.

There's the married English planter Henry Moores (Linus Roache), seeking to make his fortune building a jungle road. There's his beautiful Indian housemaid, Sajani (Nandita Das), who is married to a thuggish villager and believes the Englishman's promises of a future together.

They have been trying for a while, but the first the audience beholds of their affair is when they spirit into the jungle under the guise of looking for honey from a beehive.

The film introduces another central character, Moores's man Friday. He is an English-educated villager, T.K. Narayan (Rahul Bose), who grows increasingly conflicted about his allegiances. He helps Moores build the jungle road and protects Sajani's body after she kills herself in a moment of romantic despair.

She screams at Moores, "I have ruined everything, my honour, my life. And what have you risked? Does he love her? No. Bang."

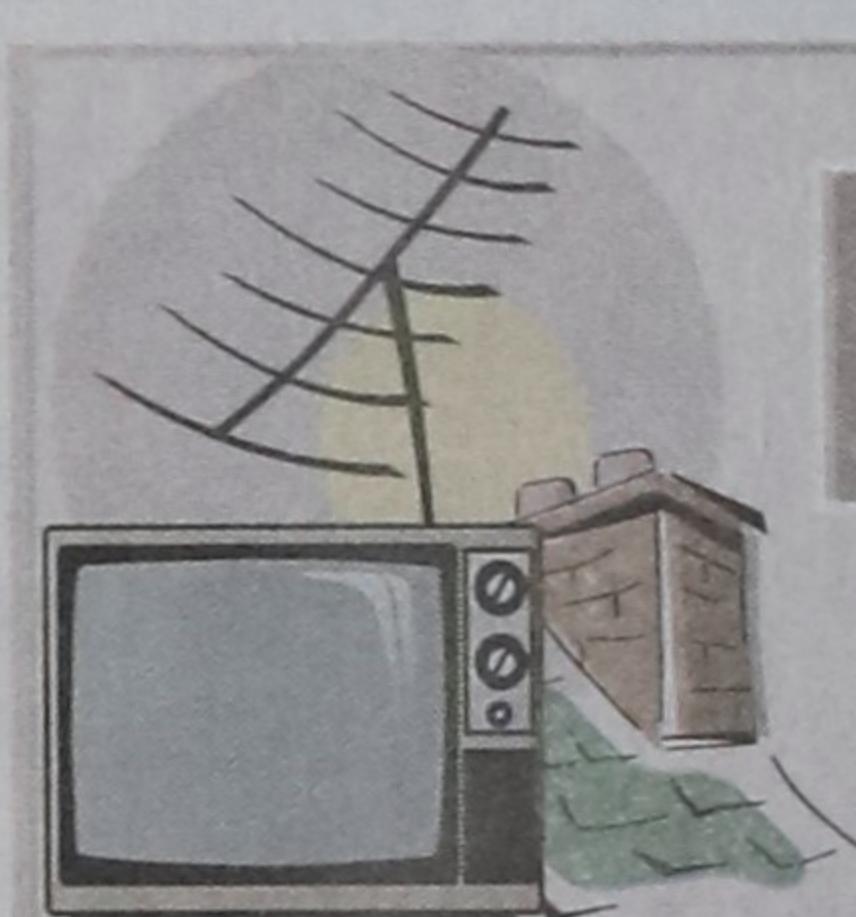
The most honestly dramatic moment of the film occurs when the villagers, led by Sajani's brother, suspect Narayan of being complicit in her death. The matter is settled before a local shaman who devises a test of truth: Lick a scalding spoon three times, rinse,

and if Narayan's tongue is spotless, so is his conscience.

The film is about honour as much as anything. Sajani does not want to be the village outcast (the Tony Award-winning stage actress Jennifer Ehle) that he is as financially worthy as her rich father. And Narayan must regain his family honour after casting his lot with Moores, a corrupting relationship that acts as parable about English masters and their Indian subjects.

Though tinged with politics, the film's potboiler aspects remind the viewer of the exotic-locale melodramas churned out by Hollywood studios in the 1940s. Bette Davis in *The Letter*, killing her lover on a Malay rubber plantation, pops to mind.

Source: Internet



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

On Air

BTV

08:40 Bishwa Bichitra
08:55 Premier Division Football League
12:30 Maa O Shishur Katha
05:05 Debate
06:15 Malanchyo
07:00 Mat O Manush
07:25 Musical Programme: Geeti Madhuri
08:35 Drama Serial: Neel Konthey Konya
09:00 Drama: Jhunu Apa
10:30 Musical Programme: Maatir Gaan

ATN BANGLA

08:15 Ajker Shabnabpotro
08:30 Drama Serial: Ochin Pakhi
09:15 Drama Serial: Amader Nurul Huda
10:30 Talk Show: Onyodritshi
11:05 Drama: Shopnoloker Chabi
12:15 Musical Programme: Shur Chhobi
01:30 Khelear Jogot
02:30 Take Care
03:15 Drama: Ami Tokai Na
04:30 Talk Show: Shontrasher Blurdhdey Islam
05:00 Gram Gonjer Khobor
05:10 Mission To Libena
05:45 The Sword of Tipu Sultan
06:20 Three Stooges
08:00 Drama Serial: Showa Paanch Arai Len
08:40 Drama Serial: Syed Barir Bou
09:20 Drama Serial: Orchid
11:30 Daily Soap: Doll's House
12:00 Grameenphone Lead News

CHANNEL 1

08:05 Tagore Song
08:30 Shokaler Gaan
09:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction

09:50 Grameenphone Tritonmatra
11:05 Apolo Tele Prescription
11:30 Agricultural Programme: Hiridoy Mati O Manush
12:30 Citycell Tarika Kathan
01:05 Musical Programme: Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Musical Programme: Sa Re Ga Ma
02:35 Ekattur er Dinguli
03:30 BBC Bangladesh Shonglap
04:05 Educational Programme: BSB Cambrian Media Bikash
04:30 Channel-i Shera Kontho
05:30 Mukhti Juddho Protidin
06:00 South Asian Music
06:20 TV Series: Super Man
07:50 Mega Serial: Ghar Kultur
08:20 Drama Serial: Noukadubi Travel Show: Banglafilm Banglar Pathey
10:00 Drama Serial: Zero Point
11:30 Drama Serial: 69
12:00 Grameenphone Ajker Shangbadpotro

08:30 Ekushey Shokal
09:15 Drama Serial: Aziz Market, Shahbag, Dhaka 1000
10:30 Ekushey Business: Special Focus
12:30 Ekushey Business: Special Shaphol Jara
01:30 Drama Serial: Pori Bibi
03:30 Shangskriti Shath Din
04:00 Explosive
05:45 Ekush-er Shondha
06:15 SMS Mania
06:30 Desh Jurey Bangladesh-er Chaalchitro
07:45 Street Show: Key Ki Koy
08:15 Drama Serial: Pori Bibi
09:30 Drama Serial: Dur-er Manush
10:00 Drama Serial: Habib-er Shonshar
11:40 Sports Roundup
12:00 Ekush-er Raat

08:40 Musical Programme: Saangeet Angon
09:05 Protidin
09:35 Documentary Programme
10:03 Drama Serial: Nironitor
10:55 News Update
11:00 Taraka Alap
12:15 Drama: College Student

12:00 Shangbad Protidin

08:40 Shuprobhat Bangladesh
10:30 Drama Serial: Aguntaak

CHANNEL 1

08:40 Bari

06:00 Nazrul Sangeet

07:30 Selected Programme

10:30 Business Hour

HBO

10:30 Bangla Feature Film

11:30 Young Hercules

06:00 Nazrul Sangeet

07:30 Selected Programme

10:30 Business Hour

04:30 The Ellen Degeneres Show

05:30 Beauty And The Geek

06:30 Ugly Betty

07:30 For Better Or For Worse

08:30 Life

09:30 Grey's Anatomy

10:30 Criminal Minds

11:30 Ncis

12:30 Vanity Insanity

12:00 Inside: World's Biggest Cruise S

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

11:30 Sherlock Holmes

01:30 Nefertiti: Mummy Returns

02:30 The Big Chill

03:30 City of Caves

05:30 True Caribbean Pirates

10:15 Cambridge Spies

11:30 Story of Black Hawk Down

12:00 Inside: World's Biggest Cruise S

ZEE STUDIO

11:00 Pinocchio

01:30 Daddy Day Care

03:30 Through A Glass Darkly

05:30 El News

06:00 Sweet Home Alabama

08:30 Beach Head

11:00 Turner & Hooch

12:00 Inside: World's Biggest Cruise S

STAR PLUS

12:00 Jo Jeela Wohi Superstar

03:30 Kyaa Aap Paanchi Pass

04:30 Setezhai

05:30 Kyaa Kool Hai Hum

07:30 Saibaba

08:30 Kyaa Aap Paanchi Pass

09:30 Pritviraj Chauhan

10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby

10:30 Rej Mob Star Parivar

Awards 08

12:00 Shararat-Thoda

Jaadu Thodi Naz

12:00 Inside: The Super Carrier

04:00 Dubai's Palm Island

05:00 Chimp Diaries

06:00 Mexico City

07:00 Big Bang

08:00 Emperor Penguins

09:00 Queen Mary 2

08:00 Victims of Venom

10:00 Inside The Super Carrier

11:00 China's Ultimate Por

12:00 Inside: World's Biggest Cruise S

GEOGRAPHIC