

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Painting Exhibition

Artist: Abdul Aziz
Venue: Galerie Zoom,
Alliance Francaise, 26
Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi
Date: June 19-July 2



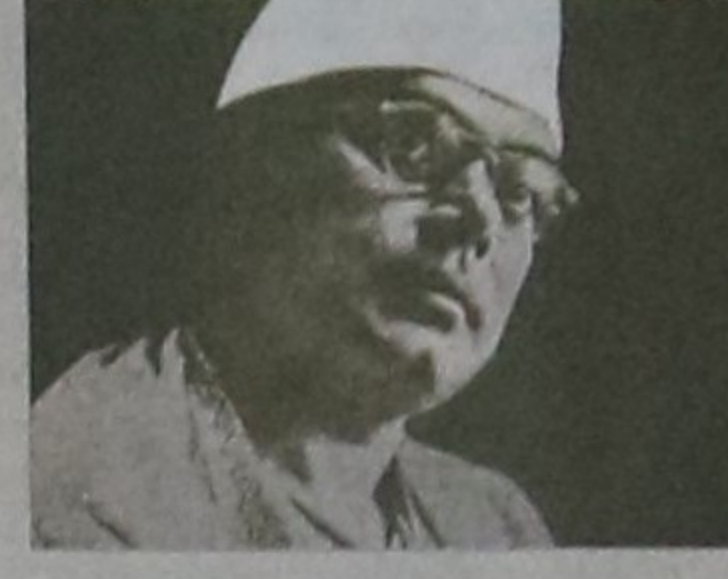
16th Young Artists' Art Exhibition 2008

Venue: National Art
Gallery, Bangladesh
Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 18-June 6
Time: 11am-7pm (3pm-7pm Fridays)



Nazrul Awards 2007

Organiser: Nazrul Institute
Venue: Shaheed Zia
Auditorium, National
Museum
Date: June 02
Time: 5:00 pm



Film Screening

Venue: Russian Centre of
Science and Culture, H
510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi
Date: June 15
"Greenhouse Effect" (by
Valery Akhmedov) at 3pm
and "I Don't Feel Pain" (by
Alexey Balabanov) at
4:45pm



Exchanging views with print-makers from Santiniketan

FAYZA HAQ

Prof. Nirmolindu Das and Prof. Pinaki Borua, two visiting professors from Santiniketan, came to Dhaka on an invitation from the Institute of Fine Arts and Bengali Foundation. Taking some time off from his work with his students, Dr. Das said, "The Department of Print making in the Institute of Fine Arts, DU, has a good working atmosphere. I'm impressed with the set up and the teaching methodology that they follow. This I say from my empirical experience. Throughout the world print making is facing problems in terms of getting materials. Digital printing is taking over. Zinc plates are not available, while linoleum block making has stopped." The zinc plates used in the intaglio printing is not at all suitable he said. The printers can switch on to wood, aluminium and copper, he suggested.

Asked to compare the Print Making Dept. in Santiniketan with the one in Dhaka, Dr. Das said that the one where he works is not only one of the best in India but one of the finest in the world. "We have, obviously much more equipments and facilities and consequently the artists are more confident. Even in Baroda, the print making set up is not particularly good."

Talking about whether it is difficult to sell prints, Dr. Das said, "In terms of sale it has a low demand. As far as aesthetics is concerned, it has a different kind of atmosphere altogether. However, very recently, particularly in India and UK print making is stepping up. There is a drive to collect complete folios."

Touching on the history of print making, Dr. Das said, "Mechanical printing in the west began in 1454 through the genius of Gutenberg of West Germany. Earlier there was printing but it was done manually. Renowned artists of Europe like



Professor Nirmolindu Das (left) and Professor Pinaki Borua

Rembrandt, Durer, Goya, Lutec, and Picasso adapted it for lithograph, intaglio and woodcut."

Dr. Das said that he himself went into print-making as it was most suitable for him. "The surface of painting does not suit my mind, aesthetics, and language" he confided. Where he comes from there are many renowned print makers, he says, like Ranjit Singh, Ajit Sil, Shalil Shahani, and they all work with a team spirit. Print-making, all over the world, has a health hazard, said Dr. Das, as the nitric acid and benzene that is used is injurious to human health. As a consequence, in Santiniketan, they are turning to non-toxic materials. Again, he said, working in the open air rather than in rooms, is safer.

Commenting on the fine arts scenario in Bangladesh Dr. Das said, "There are legendary artists like Zainul Abedin, Safiuddin

Ahmed and younger ones like Monirul Islam, Shahid Kabir and Shahabuddin. Even ones like Ranjit Das have a good sale. When they go out for workshop overseas, this broadens their horizons."

Giving his impression of Bangladesh in general, Dr. Das said, "My wife's home is in Bikanpur. The people here are warmer here than in West Bengal. We tend to be taken up with formalities back home. Again I feel that the people of Bangladesh have preserved their mother tongue much better than they have in West Bengal."

Prof. Pinaki Borua, from Santiniketan, commenting on the Print-making Department of IFA scenario, said, "I think the arrangement for the students is satisfactory. Another element is that they help each other. In print-making, working by oneself is difficult. While one applies the colour, another holds the paper



PHOTO COURTESY: ASHIT KUMAR MITRA

and a third turns the wheel of the press. Our teachers like Sanath Kar, Somnath Hor, Lalu Proshad Shau brought in the woodcut tradition so that we, in Santiniketan, did not have to depend on the zinc plate."

Asked what was the standard of work of the students, Borua said that it was difficult to say as students of different level worked together. He said that some were able to handle the medium better than the others. With the guidance of the seniors, the students will be mature in time, he believed. With the dividing and sharing of responsibilities, he said, the atmosphere in the department gets to be conducive.

"It is the lack of adequate material that hampers the students and proves to be a great pitfall," said Borua. "It's by relying on woodcuts that they can go ahead by leaps and bounds. At present, he said, one cannot blame the students for

the limitations of materials. In future, he said, the lack of materials may not be so overwhelming."

Talking about whether the students knew enough about the basis of fine arts and its history, Borua said, "Without knowing the theory and the history of fine arts, they could not have progressed so far. It is essential that artists should have a firm basis of their subject. It is not enough that they have the drive and imagination."

Touching on how he felt during his five-day stay in Dhaka, Borua said that he had been here once before. Yet he was full of curiosity about his stay and the people and their ways around him. "If our hosts in the Institute of Fine Arts had not guided us, and seen to all our needs, we would not have been so much at home or enjoyed our stay so much," said Borua.

In conversation with artist Sultan's foster-daughter Nihar Bala

AZIBOR RAHMAN, back from Narail

"During my 20-year stay with S.M. Sultan, I came to know him as a generous and conscientious man. He had a great love for animals and children. In fact, he tamed vultures, mongoose, snakes and birds. His artworks speak of the downtrodden in the society. He loved children and pondered over how to ameliorate their lives. Among his initiatives for them were an engine-driven boat, an art institute called 'Shishu Shorgo' and a museum."

"Over this long course of time, I have never sought after comforts. I sacrificed my life to his well-being. In return, he bestowed on me the gifts of affection and paternal love," said a nostalgic Nihar Bala Saha, the artist's foster-daughter.

S.M. Sultan was born at Masimdia village, on the outskirts of Narail town, on August 10, 1924. His father was Meser Ali (a mason) and his mother was Maju Bibi.

In 1950, as a representative of Pakistan, he took part in an international conference of artists in America. At that time his artworks were exhibited in New York, Boston, Chicago and several other cities. Remarkably, his works were displayed side by side with those of Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali and other legendary artists.

Nihar Bala said, "I started looking after Sultan in



PHOTO: STAR

Nihar Bala Saha

1974, after my husband had died and I returned to my father's house with my two daughters. Sultan needed someone to look after him so he could devote more time to his work.

"Sultan used to tell me that to love humankind is to love Allah. If asked about marriage, he said that he had no time for that."

The woman who had devoted 20 years of her life to taking care of a legendary artist who is considered a 'national treasure' now gets a meagre allowance of Tk 1500 every month.

"Now I am 82 years old. As the prices of essentials have shot up, I request the government to increase my allowance," concludes Nihar Bala.

Sony BMG acquires rights to Kamal Haasan's latest film

For the first time, Sony BMG is entering the regional music industry in India, and the company has chosen Tamil as its launching pad. The film the company has signed is one of the most anticipated projects of 2008, Kamal Haasan's *Dasavatham*.

Dasavatham sees Kamal Haasan in ten different roles, and Asin, his heroine in a double role. Mallika Sherawat acts in the film as a CIA agent while Kamal's heroine of yesteryears, Jayapradha, now a Samajwadi Party MP plays a major role.

The music album was launched



Kamal Haasan in *Dasavatham*

at Chennai's Nehru Stadium. The stadium, which is supposed to accommodate 20,000 people, was full to almost twice its capacity. An

ever-smiling Jackie Chan launched the album.

Source: Internet



BTv

08:20 Shuprabhat
08:45 World Roundup
09:05 Talk Show
09:30 Musical Programme: Smritimoy Geetmoy
10:05 Open University
10:30 Quiz Quiz
10:55 Selected Programme
11:30 Drama Serial: Neel Konthey Koriya
12:00 Educational Programme: Shobabar Jonyo Shikha Baanshuri
01:00 Cartoon
01:30 Agrotut
02:40 Khela Dhula
03:05 Shukhi Poribar
03:30 Nirapadey Chotley Chai
04:05 Onu Poromnanu
04:30 Dance Programme: Nityer Nityer Taley Taley
05:05 Debate
06:15 Matri Bhasha
07:00 Talk Show: Shomoyer Shanlaap
07:25 Bazar-er Bag
07:45 Esho Bangladesh Gori
08:35 Agricultural Programme: Krishi Diba Nishi
09:00 Musical Programme: Chhayachhondo
10:30 Musical Programme: Shondha Maloti
11:00 Talk Show: Date Line Dhaka

ATN BANGLA

08:15 Aiker Shangbadpotro
08:30 Char Deyal-er Kabyo
09:15 Drama Serial: Onno Boshonto
10:30 Talk Show: Onnyodrishti Shushtho Thakun
11:05 Musical Programme: Notun Chhobir Gaan
12:15 Motamot
02:30 Daily Soap: Doll's Soap
03:10 Drama Serial: O Amar Chokkhu Nai
03:45 Children's Programme:

CHANNEL-I

08:05 Tagore Song
09:30 Shangbadpotro Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Grameenphone Trilio Malra
11:05 Educational Programme
12:30 Talk Show: Citycell Taraka Kathan
01:05 Musical Programme: Ebong Cinema Gaan
01:30 Musical Programme: Sa Re Ga Ma
02:35 Ekattur Er Dinguli
03:05 Banijyo O Orhoroti
03:30 Musical Programme: Hindoyer Gaan
04:30 FCT Business Talk
05:30 Muktiudhho Probdin
06:00 Drama Serial: Alor Khojey Amra Kojona Oshamany
06:40 Drama
07:50 Drama Serial: Central Mental Hospital
10:00 Travel Show: RC Travel On
11:30 Drama Serial: 69
12:00 Grameenphone Aiker Shangbadpotro

ETV

08:30 Ekusher Shokaal
09:15 Drama Serial: Dur-er Manush
10:30 Ekusher Business
12:00 Ekusher Dupur
12:30 Ekusher Business: Special Focus
01:30 Ekusher Business: Shophol Jara
02:10 Drama Serial: Poribibi
02:30 Drama Serial: Aziz Market Dhaka 1000
03:30 Shomali Shada Kalo
05:15 Cine Hits
05:45 Ekush-er Shondha



Central Mental Hospital
On Channel 1 at 09:35 pm
Drama Serial
Guest: Sazu Khadem, Kushum Shikdar

Rtv

08:40 Saangeet Ongon
09:00 Rtv Exclusive
09:05 Protidin
09:35 Borney Borney Rochito
10:03 Drama Serial: Poroshpor
11:00 Talk Show: Kingfisher Taroka Alap
11:30 Drama Serial: Aguntaak
12:15 Wide Angel
01:03 Jugantor-er Swabdosheena
02:30 Bangla Feature Film
06:00 Protidin

Radio

08:55 Drama Serial: Amar Bou Shob Janey
09:30 Shomporko
10:05 Drama Serial: Tero Kahon
11:00 Shangkrti Ei Shoptaho
11:30 Tiffin-er Phakey
12:10 Talk Show: Ei Shomoy
01:05 Japan Video Topic
02:30 Drama Serial: Amar Bou Shob Janey
03:15 Close up 1 2008
05:25 Ithash-er Ei Din-ey
05:30 Apnar Jigyasha
06:45 Rupali Pordaar Golpo
08:15 Drama Serial: Eit Kath-er Khancha
09:00 Music Express
09:45 Drama Serial: Dhaka Nibash
11:30 Talk Show: Ei Shomoy

CHANNEL 1

04:20 Drama Serial: Byasto Doctor
05:30 Drama Serial: Shohor-er Shesh Bari
06:05 Citycell Din-er Sheshey
06:50 Drama Serial: Horek Rang-er Mon
08:25 Daily Soap: Mohanagar
09:05 Cookery Show: Confidence Salt
09:45 Drama Serial: Swapno Chura
11:25 Talk Show: Top Story
12:00 Shongbad Protidin

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL

11:30 Mangrove Maneaters



Breaking and Entering
On Star Movies at 05:00 pm, Genre: Drama
Cast: Jude Law, Martin Freeman, Juliette Binoche

BOISHAKHI

10:05 Business Hour
12:05 Drama: Apu the Great
01:00 Nazrul Sangeet
02:10 Jantey Chal

ZEE STUDIO

08:30 The Sea Inside
11:10 Seven Samurai
05:00 Charlie Chaplin

STAR MOVIES

11:15 Last Kiss, The
01:00 Hell's Rain
02:45 Jerry Maguire
05:00 Breaking And Entering
07:00 Dragonfly
08:45 First Blood
10:20 Alien

STAR WORLD

10:30 For Better Or For Worse
11:30 My Wife And Kids
12:00 Two And A Half Men
01:30 Northern Exposure
02:30 The Ellen Degeneres Show
03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
04:30 General Hospital
05:00 Desperate Housewives
06:00 Family Guy
06:30 Two And A Half Men
07:00 Rodney
07:30 Friends
08:00 Seinfeld
08:30 My Wife And Kids
09:00 According To Jim
09:30 Life With Bonnie
10:00 Less Than Perfect
10:30 Last Comic Standing