

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Display of Books and Photos

To mark the 90th birth anniversary of Russian writer Boris Zhadar
Venue: Library, Russian Centre of Science and Culture, House 510, Road 7, Dhanmondi
Date: September 3-14



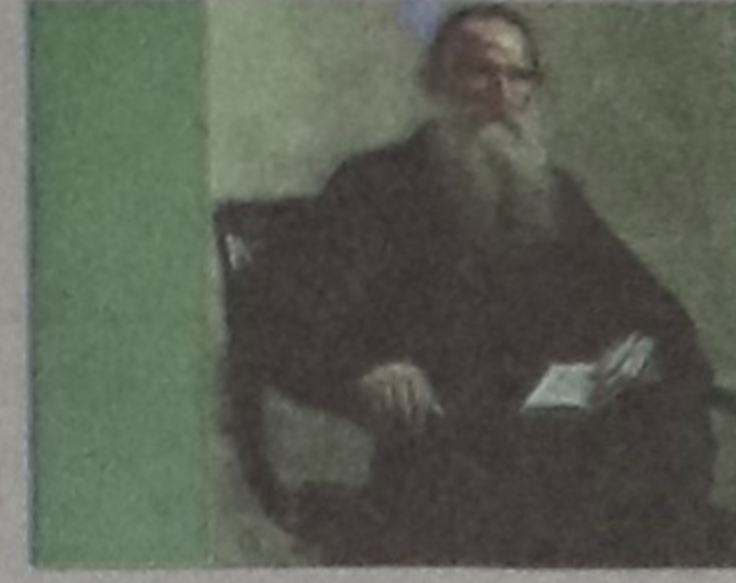
Group Art Exhibition

Group exhibition of 14 artists
Title: Searching Our Roots
Organiser: Alliance Française de Dacca
Venue: Gallery, Alliance Française de Dacca, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: September 5-18
Time: 9am-12am and 4pm-8pm (Only 4pm-8pm on Saturdays)



Seminar

On the 180th birth anniversary of Leo Tolstoy
Organiser: Russian Centre of Science and Culture
Venue: Auditorium, RCSC, House 510, Road 7, Dhanmondi
Date: September 11



Exhibition

Title: Eid o Aamar Swopnobhumi
Organiser: Nitya Upahar
Venue: Gallery Nitya Upahar, 3rd floor, Aziz Co-operative Super Market, Shahbag
Date: September 5-30
Time: 10am-8pm



Searching for roots

Group exhibition of works by 14 artists



(Clockwise from top-left) Paintings by Kochi, Tarin and Russell.

TAKIR HOSSAIN

"Searching Our Roots" is the apt title for a recent group exhibition that featured the works of 14 artists. The exhibition is a spin-off of an art camp held in June this year. The talented artists were immersed in nature and were greatly moved. The camp's main purpose was to highlight the nature, culture and environment of Bangladesh in paintings. The participants were drawn from different departments of the Institute of Fine Arts. This outdoor camp was a platform for the exchange of views and concepts by the artists.

The artists share similar themes but each has distinctive technique and world view.

The participating artists are Hamiduzzaman Khan, Ivy Zaman, Russell, Rania, Rubel, Kochi, Tarin, Khairul, Tonu, Bulbul, Tuntun, Shormi, Anul and Saifur. Here's a look at some of their works and themes:

Hamiduzzaman Khan is

celebrated for his distinguished work and thought-provoking themes. His dedication to art is praiseworthy. From the beginning, Hamid has been busy with the creation of the novel and innovative, which is very close to the bucolic community, and their way of life. Hamid, who has involved himself with the contemporary art movement of Bangladesh, works with zeal, courage and creativity.

In the art world, sculpture is a male dominated medium. However in Bangladesh, the situation is quite different. Among the talented female sculptors is Ivy Zaman. Amidst the forms and shapes of her sculptures, the underlying message is the eternal beauty of nature. Her abiding love for nature dates back to her childhood days in Bogra, where she and her friends used to stroll on the banks of the river Korotoa till the small hours of the night. They were enraptured by the boats with lanterns and the reflection of the silver moonlight on the river. Other enduring



memories are those of flocks of birds winging their way home and silent darkness -- all of which are expressed in lively and innovative ways in her work.

Russell has internalised the inner essence of nature in most of his works at the exhibition. A diverse aspect of pastoral life is his main concern. That is why his works refer to our roots. His semi-abstract works of rural landscapes and the transparent technique are boosted by his use of the background from the romantic view. His space is filled up with

objects and he is largely immersed in the blissful depiction of Bangladesh. His strokes are polished and different, sometimes almost pattern-like.

In this exhibition, Rania tries to express her feelings through ingenious compositions and colours. Canvas is a field of celebration of triumph and a space of painful vision. She gets fulfilment by creating something, which moves her soul. An artist creates his or her own language with colour on canvas.

Tarin's work expresses the

aesthetic beauty of a village. By means of her sweeping brush strokes and warm colours, the canvas is transformed. Her work is basically a depiction of a landscape with rural nature viewed through trees, birds and a dense forest. Though the subject is simple, Tarin makes their movements complicated through watercolour. Luminous deluge of colours breathes into her paintings more liveliness and transparency.

Kochi has used a lot of brown and beige as well as blue. She didn't deliberately put it there with some particular thought behind it. In one of the watercolours is a native hut surrounded by green trees and woods.

Tonu's search for beauty and truth has influenced her to hold up in her images a vibrant blithe picture of splendour. She tries to present synchronisation of colours in her works with little pretension. She has used colours with subdued splendour for giving a distinct message through her works.

Walking into the exhibition, one feels as if he or she has entered a vibrant green atmosphere. As nature lovers, the participants have played with various vital colours, which can be easily recognised. Simple lives of the common people, fishing in rivers, harvesting and cultivating in the alluvial soil, sailing boats in the river, moonlit night, jute and paddy-loaded boat and other scenic images of pastoral life are the common features of their works. The green tree, the cloud, the birds, the rain, the deep blue water, the rural people, peasants, village women are the main subjects of their works.

The exhibition is on at Alliance Française de Dacca and ends on September 18.

The writer is a freelance contributor.

Sheuti: Stepping forward with responsibility

NADIA SARWAT

In a recent TV commercial of Grameen Phone, Sheuti appeared as a loving and caring wife and the customer care officer of GP who can understand people's needs just like she understands her husband's even before they say it in words. In reality too, Sheuti is a person people can depend on. She is in the media for several years and attentive audience have surely notice her remarkable works in the drama serial 69, *Rongchhut, Lal Neel Beguni, Kuhak*; telefilm *No Man's Land, Joto Durey Jao Pher Dekha Hobey, Priyo Parveen* and others. Her modelling career includes TV commercials of Radhuni spices, Dhaka Bank, Aktel etc. Recently this model-actress talked with *The Daily Star* about how she found herself in the media and her thoughts on it.

"I had an aptitude for hosting and I started my career in the media through hosting a programme called *Sanskriti Ei Shopahon* on ntv. It was couples of year ago. I was also a news presenter for BTV at that time. How I entered in acting is quite a story. I went on the set of Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's popular drama serial 69 with one of my relative to watch the shooting. I just love Farooki's work. There, I caught the director's eye and he approached me for the character of *Sejuti* in the serial. It really was a break for me and I got numbers of offer since that."

About her acting she says, "From a young age, I am a kind of simple girl, you can say a bit silly (she smiles). But I am always resolute at my ideals and am always blessed by love from people around me. Most of the characters that I played are kind of similar to what I am, and I think I can do well in the roles those suits me."

But Sheuti is not that frequent in the screen as she lives in Kuwait with her husband. She has a one-year old son too to look after. But whenever she comes to



Sheuti

Bangladesh, she is busy shooting. The TV commercial for Grameen phone is shot in her recent visit in the country.

"The unit was a familiar one for me, Mostofa Sarwar Farooki directed it. But it was a long time since I last stood before a Camera, I was so nervous. But my co-artist who was to play my husband in the commercial seemed more nervous than me. As I had to make him easy with me, I got back my confidence. I've got quite an inspiring feedback for the commercial."

Despite her time-limitation, Sheuti prefers acting than modelling. "Of course I am talking about acting in characters that suites me well and where I have

something to act, not like the ones sitting in the park bench with a boy, and cracking nuts. Even when it comes to modelling, I prefer those acting based TV commercials."

About her favourite character, Sheuti says, "In the telefilm *No Man's Land*, where my co-stars were Faisal and Joya Ahsan, I played Faisal's wife. Joya was his first wife who left Faisal and their blind son. The child takes me for its mother. The twist was when Joya comes back again; it was such a challenging role."

Sheuti is looking forward to wear the skins of characters that are resolute, dependable and responsible, just as she is in the real life.

Britney sweeps at otherwise tame VMAs



Britney Spears accepts the award for 'Best Female Video' at the Video Music Awards.

Britney, Britney, Britney. For the days leading up to the 25th annual MTV Video Music Awards, which took place Sunday night at Paramount Studios in Hollywood, MTV breathlessly promoted Britney Spears' appearance to open the show. Not to sing, merely to appear. At the Video Music Awards appearances are everything. It made no difference that through 2007, she had never won an MTV Video Music Award.

She appeared: two minutes of recorded comedy with Jonah Hill and another live minute walking onstage and introducing the show, with just one fumble. Shortly afterward, after 16 previous nominations, she won the award for Best Female Video for "Piece of Me," a song that taunts the tabloids she has served so well. Did she seize her moment to treat the award as a vindication? No. She said she was "speechless" and simply thanked God, her children and her fans. Later, she won Best Pop Video, added her record company to the list and managed to say, "This means a lot." When she won the night's top award, Video of the Year, she calmly said she was "in shock" and thanked her fans again.

Spears had already been upstaged by Rihanna, wearing an outfit of feathers and leather as she sang about insanity in the show's first big production number, "Disturbia." Later, Spears' onetime rival Christina Aguilera strutted, teasing and knocking men around in her new single, "Keeps Gettin' Better." Teenagers' loyalties have moved to the Jonas Brothers, who sang "Love Bug" on the Paramount back lot with screaming girls running down a streetscape to get closer, and to Tokio Hotel, the German band whose fans voted them Best New Artist by text messaging. As host, Russell Brand, a manic, intelligent English comedian, injected the show with politics (pro-Barack Obama), raunch and philosophical musings. Kanye West had the show's anticlimactic finale: a new love song in which he made the mistake of singing rather than rapping.

On this awards show, the awards have barely mattered. The draw of the awards is the collision between all the artifice money can buy -- hair, makeup, designer clothes, lights, scripts, lip-synching -- and the real time demands of performing without retakes. Winners are rapidly forgotten, while one-time-only stunts, mishaps and freak-show oddities are remembered and endlessly replayed. The reality on this reality show is pop stardom in the music-video era.

MTV wants its stars to be young, sexy song-and-dance prodigies with designer tastes and a flair for cross-promotion: the song that plugs the movie that plugs the soft drink and the car. Playing along, stars time their latest metamorphoses for the MTV awards cameras. Yet while MTV loves hard-working careerists, it is happiest when those troupers go a little crazy -- or more than a little, allowing for multiple comebacks. Michael Jackson served MTV that way in the 1990s; now, it is Britney Spears' turn.

TV WATCH

"O Bondhu Amar" on Ekushey TV tonight



Shireen Bakul (R) and Parvez Hossain in the show.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Noted actress Shireen Bakul was asked to name her closest friend. Without hesitating she answered 'Parvez Hossain.' She was talking to the host of *O Bondhu Amar*, a talk show on Ekushey Television that features celebrities and their friends.

This episode of the show will shed light on the friendship between Shireen Bakul and writer Parvez Hossain along with several interesting aspects of their personal lives.

Hosted by actress Tazin Ahmed, the show is produced by Fatema Shilu. *O Bondhu Amar* will be aired tonight at 10:10 pm.

Sharmila Tagore and Amol Palekar together in a Marathi film

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Two veteran actors of Indian cinema, Sharmila Tagore and Amol Palekar, have chosen a Marathi film about layers of man-woman relationships to mark new milestones in their eventful careers.

The film in question is "Samantar", a home production of Palekar whose script has been done by his wife Sandhya Gokhale.

While 62-year-old Tagore makes her debut in a Marathi movie, Palekar, 64, returns to a lead role on the big screen after 22 years.

Palekar, who is wearing the hats of producer, director and actor in the film, says the movie is a "fascinating" insight into many layers of relationship between man and woman and will be released in early 2009.

Asked by the media why he chose Sharmila Tagore, a Bengali, to act in a Marathi movie, Palekar said initially there were apprehensions about that but once the project began, all those were overcome.

Besides, Palekar said he has always admired Tagore as a great actress and is confident that Marathi people will get to see that in "Samantar".

To a question, Tagore said she did have some apprehensions about acting in a Marathi film but went ahead accepting it as a challenge.

Palekar acknowledges that combining the roles of producer-director-actor was stressful but he liked the script of the film instantly and so much so that he agreed to don all the three hats.



Amol Palekar and Sharmila Tagore.

The film is being financed by the Big Picture, an arm of Reliance Entertainment promoted by Anil Ambani, one of India's top industrialists, who has decided to foray into film production in a big way.

Palekar denied suggestions that he had bade goodbye to acting before "Samantar" and said that he had not been getting roles to his liking. "I had never said that I will not act again," he said.