

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Art Exhibition

Abdur Razaque Retrospective
 Title: Rhythms of Figures, Forms and Nature
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dharmondi
 Date: October 10-29
 Time: 12pm-8pm



13th Asian Art Biennale '08

Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Osmani Memorial Hall and National Museum
Date: October 21-November 19
Time: 11am-7pm (Fridays 3pm-5pm)



Musical Soiree

On Lalou and Abbas Uddin's death anniversary
Organiser: Bangladesh Loko Sangeet Parishad
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbag
Date: October 28
Time: 4:30pm



Group Art Exhibition

Artists: Mahmudur Rahman Dipon, Shahnaz Sultana and Aowad Hossain
Organiser: Kamranga
Venue: Kamranga, H 30, Rd 42, Gulshan 2
Date: October 25-November 1
Time: 10am-7pm



Asian Art Biennale '08

Reza Asad Al Huda gets Honourable Mention

ERSHAD KAMOL

Bangladeshi artist Reza Asad Al Huda Anupam's work "Black Line 1" got an Honourable Mention at the ongoing 13th Asian Art Biennale '08 organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

An elated Anupam said, "This is truly an honour. I consider it a turning point in my career as it's my first recognition at the international level."

The oil on paper abstract work "Black Line 1" features the darker sides of society. Anupam

said, "I've used black and brown to imply decaying social values. I've created a rough texture on the surface to address that."

Anupam said that he had planned a series on the issue. To quote him, "So far I've done three paintings as part of the series. I'd like to expand on the ongoing social turmoil."

Anupam further pointed out that he prefers oil paints to watercolours and acrylic. "In my view there is more room for experimentation with oil than other mediums. One can always make corrections in oil, which is not possible in other mediums," he said.

Anupam is an assistant professor at the

Department of Graphics, Faculty of Fine Arts. He is also a consultant for Rtv. The artist designs book covers as well.

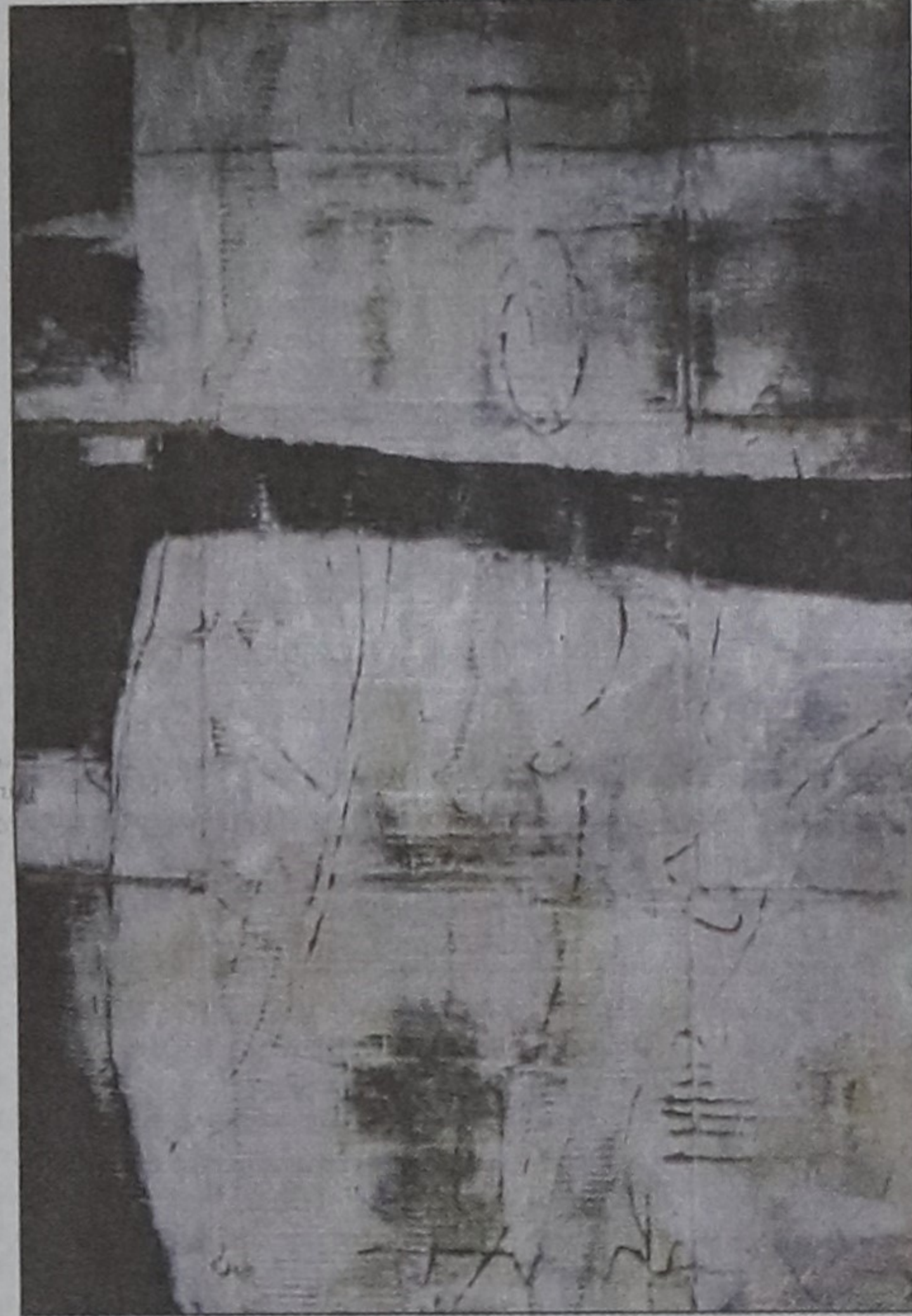
On the prospects for graphic designers in the country Anupam said, "Graphic designers are in demand now, it is a lucrative sector."

"However to groom our graphics designers for the international market, the laboratory facilities at the Department of Graphics Design need to be improved," he added.

Anupam wants to continue with his painting. He believes that his passion for experimentation in oils will take him to a higher level.



The artist



"Black Line 1" by Reza Asad Al Huda Anupam

Food and fun in Delhi

KAVITA CHARANJI, New Delhi

Culture and cuisine came together in a delightful mélange just the other day. Regaling a captivated audience were chefs from South Africa, Brazil and India just a sample: Kalaripayattu (Kerala) dancers who fused martial dance, strikes, kicks, grapples. In one piece two dancers, armed with swords and shields took centre stage in a mock combat. The venue was the foyer of the Ashok Hotel, New Delhi and the organiser was the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

The scene soon shifted to the Durbar restaurant. Here a group of Brazilian musicians with instruments such as drums, saxophones and trombones delighted people who were attending the select dinner.

Meanwhile, the Indian musicians also put up a good show, rendering old time goodies such as *Aage Bhi Jaa ne tu, Mera geet amar kar do* from Hindi films.

After the music, followed some superb food from the three countries, designed to tickle the taste buds. As part of the wonderful Indian, Brazil and South African (IBSA) festival, chefs of the latter two nations were flown in to the menu. The trio comprised, award winning Brazilian chef Mara Alcamim, Owen Jullies, director of the South African Chefs' Association and MS Gupta, corporate chef of the Indian Tourist Development Corporation (ITDC).

The memorable evening also included exotic dishes from South Africa among them Babotie, minced mutton curry, Peri Peri chicken which is indigenous to Southern Africa. For the diners there was also the staple vegetarian maize meal called *Mie Lie Pap*. All together there were four dishes for vegetarians coupled with chicken and mutton. Many dishes were an expert blend of Dutch and Indonesia. The expert chef, Jullies also gave a view of his achievements: returning to the Sun City in 1990 for the opening of the Lost City, a fantasy resort, where he spent three years. The highlight of his stay there was putting up an inaugural lunch for Nelson Mandela by running one of the food stations.

From Brazil too came delicious food: mutton stew, shrimp in manioc sauce, vegetarian stew, manioc sauce with mutton stock. The cuisine came courtesy chef Mara, whose Contemporary Restaurants was considered the best in Brasilia by *Veja Magazine* in 2007, and the best in Brazil by food critic Josimar Melo. She was once again elected *Chef of the Year* in 2008 by the *Veja* jury.

In turn, the Indian chefs came up with an array of superb culinary delights largely derived from Awadh (Lucknow). Chicken Rehana,

prepared with special spices, is a gravy made with nuts and tomato puree, while other exotic recipes included *Koh-e-Daliganj* (special lamb curry). Those who sampled the superb fare vouched for the Rann.

Meanwhile, there was fare for vegetarians as well: *Musallam Cauliflower, Dal Makhni* and *Palak Kofta*. This was complemented by a variety of breads such as *gilafti, sheermal, naan, roti, parantha* and *missi roti*. Executive chef of Ashok Hotel, Rajan Loomba said: "The Indian food we are serving is a speciality of our Durbar restaurant."

The desserts for the three countries featured the Indian puddings like *jalebi, chena payas, while Brazil came up with a coconut sweet, peanut sweet and jaigeri. South Africa too offered milk tart, malva pudding and custard.*

And on to the next day when Brazil and South African dancers showed off their fascinating dances, Brazil also featured an orchestra.

The first Frevo dance and orchestra performance from Brazil was eye opening. Frevo describes a range of musical styles originating from Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil which are traditionally associated with the Brazilian carnival.

After this followed a Frevo dance which requires much rehearsals, strength, endurance and flexibility. Says a note at the programme, "The fight between the groups moved from the physical to the aesthetic."

Now to South Africa: well known for their grace, enthralling, uninhibited dance. The troupe captured indigenous cultures and modern contemporary genres.

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Explaining the genesis of the concert, was Ajit Gupte, the deputy director general of the ICCR. As he said, "Currently we are having the third IBSA summit where the heads of state from India, Brazil and South Africa are coming together. On the eve of the summit, we have a celebratory and festive occasion. The summit strives to encourage cooperation between the three nations as they are among the largest developing countries...Dance, music, food are an integral part of culture and we seek to expose the people of India to different kinds of foreign cultures."



Brazilian musicians perform at the programme.

Off camera: Babita

Babita is associated with the golden era of our cinema and she's still going strong. The glamorous Babita attained fame for her histrionic skills in films such as Satyajit Ray's "Ashoni Shanket", Amjad Hossain's "Golapi Ekhon Train-e", Subhash Dutta's "Arunoday-er Agnishakkhi", attaining numerous national and international awards.



Babita

The Daily Star (TDS): Introduction to the film industry...

Babita: I was hell bent on avoiding the film industry. This was partly because I saw my elder sister Suchanda returning home drained from her shooting, day in day out. But my fate was sealed when acclaimed director Zahir Raihan cast me in his film "Sangsaar". I was still a teenager then. It was all the more difficult to refuse him, as he was my brother-in-law. He once more requested me to work in the film "Shesh Porjonto", co-starring Razzak. After that it was the point of no return...

TDS: Embarrassing moments?

Babita: I can think of quite a few. In one of my initial films, Razzak bhai was cast as my father. In the next film, I was to play his love interest. As luck would have it, I was to render some very romantic lines. Naturally I was tongue-tied. Zahir Raihan's scolding didn't help either. Razzak bhai thankfully came to the rescue, asking me to say it naturally (whatever that meant!). The day

finally ended well.

TDS: Any overwhelming experience?

Babita: In the film, "Raater Por Din" I was cast opposite Wasim, one of the most popular actors of the time. He was 'Mr East Pakistan', so for me it was like being cast opposite Arnold Schwarzenegger! How do you do romantic scenes with a bodybuilder? Fortunately, the movie was a success.

TDS: Remarkable experiences...

Babita: The most remarkable experience has to be working with Satyajit Ray in the film "Ashani Shanket". One day, while shooting I had to cross a small bridge on foot. I had to take my slippers off and forgot to pick them up. When I turned around, I was shocked to see that Ray was carrying my slippers! This was a lesson in humility that I'd never forget.

TDS: Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?

Babita: I dream of becoming a director. That'll be a nice change after 30 years of acting.

TDS: Favourite actors?

Babita: Sophia Loren hands down. I also admire Al Pacino, Robert De Niro, Julia Roberts, Amitabh Bachchan and Suchitra Sen.

TDS: Rapport with co-actors...

Babita: Zafar Iqbal and I were a great hit. Our clothes were in vogue. Zafar was a fantastic singer blessed with good looks. Another winning combination was with Faruque. Typically I would play the innocent village belle and he would be the fiery young man.

ITI's Theatre of the Nations held in China

"The Theatre of the Nations," the biggest international theatre festival in China, was held from October 16 to 26 in Nanjing, Jiangsu province amidst festivities, says a press release. This was the 31st session of the festival, which was founded by ITI in 1957.

The Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China, China Federation of Literary and Art Circles and the provincial government of Jiangsu jointly organised the festival. Thirty-seven local and international groups participated in the festival.

A gala opening ceremony was held on October 16 at the People's Great Hall where the Festival was formally inaugurated jointly by Sun Jiazhen, vice-chairman of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference; Zhao Shaohua, Chinese vice minister of Culture; Dr Zhang Wei Guo, vice governor of Jiangsu province; ITI President Ramendu Majumdar; former President Manfred Beilharz and two others Chinese leaders. An hour long dazzling cultural event kept the audience spell bound.

On the occasion a two-day meeting of the newly elected worldwide Executive Council of ITI was also held. Presided over by Ramendu Majumdar, the meeting included discussion and formulation of different strategies to make the organisation more dynamic and to face the challenges of the contemporary theatre world.



Ramendu Majumdar, President of ITI, speaks at the inaugural ceremony of "Theatre of the Nations" in China. To his left is the former President, Manfred Beilharz and to his right is the Secretary General Tobias Bianco.

"Meridian Channel-i Khudey Gaanraaj" tonight



A young contestant sings on "Meridian Channel-i Khudey Gaanraaj".

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The SMS round of popular talent hunt for children, "Meridian Channel-i Khudey Gaanraaj" starts from today. The contestants who have made it to this round are Aloka, Bela, Ananya, Shuchona, Parshi, Tuba, Jhuma, Priya, Shoron, Jewel, Niloy, Dibya, Raaj, Abhijit, Nafis, Omlan, Sodyo, Uday and Imran.

Tonight's episode will feature performances by Uday, Tuba, Ananya, Bela and Abhijit. The

young singers are now undergoing a grooming session, being mentored by veteran artistes including Subir Nandi, Anil Kumar Saha and others. Winners will be selected based on SMS votes and scores given by the judges. The show has generated a good response among the audience. "Meridian Channel-i Khudey Gaanraaj" is aired every Tuesday and Friday on Channel-i at 7:50 pm. Kumar Bishwajit and Samina Chowdhury are the two main judges on the show.

Zeta Jones to star as Cleopatra

Catherine Zeta Jones is to star in a musical film about Cleopatra and her romance with Caesar and Mark Anthony, according to a report.

The film is to be directed by Steven Soderbergh and will be set in 1920s America rather than ancient Egypt, says *The Hollywood Reporter*.

"X-Men" star Hugh Jackman is also said to be in talks to also take a lead role.

Zeta Jones is no stranger to musical film, having won an Oscar for her role as Velma in 2002's "Chicago".

"Cleo," as the film project is currently entitled, would be Soderbergh's first attempt at directing a musical.

He is best known for dramas

such as "Erin Brockovich" and "Traffic", for which he won an Oscar.

"Che," his two-part Che Guevara biopic, is showing at this year's London Film Festival and is due for release early next year.

He is also developing a Liberace biopic starring Zeta Jones's husband Michael Douglas.

Joseph Mankiewicz co-wrote and directed the most famous Cleopatra film, the 1963 historical epic that starred Elizabeth Taylor, Rex Harrison and Richard Burton.

It was hugely expensive and considered a flop, but was ultimately nominated for best picture and won four Oscars.

Source: BBC



Catherine Zeta Jones won an Oscar for the film version of Chicago.