

**WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK**

**Centenary of Khudiram's Execution**  
 Organiser: Bangladesh Liberation War Museum  
 Venue: Bangladesh Liberation War Museum premises, Shegunbagicha  
 Date: November 27, Time: 4pm onwards



**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
 Title: Walking the Painted Pavé  
 Artist: Sunil Kumar  
 Venue: Alliance Francaise 26, Mirpur Road, Dharmadam  
 Date: Nov 21-Dec 1  
 Time: 9am-12pm and 5-8pm (Saturdays 5-8pm)



**Experimental Theatre Festival**  
 Organiser: Palakar  
 Venue: Palakar Studio, 133, Natak Swarni  
 Date: November 21-30  
 Time: 6:30pm everyday  
 Today: Street Patra (by Jiban Sankar, Hobiganj)



**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
 Title: Tales of a city  
 Artist: Nazib Mohammad  
 Venue: Gallery of Fine Art, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Nimtoli, Ramna  
 Date: Nov 24-Dec 2  
 Time: 12-9pm

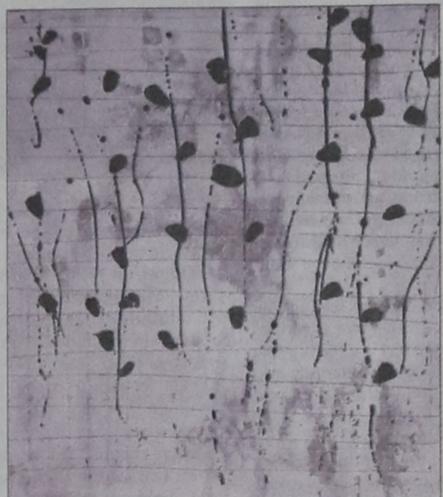


**Exhibition**

## 'Living colours and dancing lines' in Monir's paintings



'Castle on the Beach' (top) and 'Autumn Musical Notes'.



TAKIR HOSSAIN

Monirul Islam can interpret life's diverse dimensions with his remarkable style, techniques where colours, lines, textures and forms blend in synchronisation. Controlling the medium and technique with skilled mastery, he projects an aesthetic and stylistic uniqueness. Monir's paintings speak to the viewer in an intimate voice about childhood -- most often the favourite chapter of human life, immersed in bliss, woes and boundless endeavours. The result is a display of art centring on nature, human relationships and the meaning of life.



Monirul Islam

Monir's solo exhibition titled 'Living Colours and Dancing Lines' is now on at Bengal Gallery of Fine arts. The exhibition ends on December 6. The exhibition includes prints (etching, aquatint, dry point, mezzotint), mono print, water colours and mixed media on paper.

Monir's USP is his subtle lines, warm colours and the balance between space and composition. Use of space is an important aspect in his works and the artist likes to work with different geometric forms and unusual shapes, transforming them

amazingly into tangible expressions. An admirer of nature, Monir tries to replicate colours and synchronisation found in surrounding environment in his works, using his personal language and individual expression. The space that is found in his works is aptly related to the perspective of the themes. The artist uses little doodles, sharp lines, dots, tiny motifs and a lot of symbols, which have become his trademark.

After settling in Spain, he started using paper as medium. It enables

him to place the complexities of life to the viewer with a different appeal, from an unusual angle. Monir makes his own paper, which provides the mystery that inspires him. Paper as a medium is quite popular in Madrid, where the artist currently lives.

Monir's water colours mainly focus on the unparalleled beauty of nature. In the late 1960s, Monir emerged as an accomplished water colourist. Up until 1969 when he left for Spain on a scholarship to study traditional murals, Monir concentrated on oil and water colours. Monir has also done a few graphic works in Dhaka to get an idea of the method. The Madrid art scene drew him into the enchanting world of etching, to which he later concentrated his artistic faculty. That was a turning point in his life.

In a Monirul Islam work titled 'Dialogue in Silence', there is a remarkable interplay of sapphire, black, yellow, white and grey in a harmonious depiction of lovers. Love is the tenderest and somehow rarest element in the world. Monir puts into his work all the yearning and passion that only lovers experience.

'Creation of a Nation' is another outstanding etching and aquatint,

which depicts the dark side of human nature. The painting is Monir's ode to Bangladesh in 1971. There are some skeletons in the work that refers to death and misery during the Liberation War. In 'Autumn Musical Notes,' one notices the printmaker's etching skills. In this composition the artist has combined grey and black, two contrasting colours. In the bottom, are some lines in these two shades, which could represent a musical milieu.

'El Maestro' is a mixed media piece where etching has been done with watercolour and pen. The image refers to the contemporary socio-economic condition of our country. 'Only Two of Us' -- etching and aquatint -- is again a tribute to love. The evocation of the vastness of nature is splendid and the line in the surface generates Monir's characteristic mystery.

Monir has carved a niche in the Madrid art scene and won the most prestigious award, the Spanish National Grand Prize. A workaholic and charismatic character, Monir is always creating the offbeat with phenomenal élan. By inventing new forms and exploring different themes, he has acquired a distinguished position in the global art scenario.

## Urbashi celebrates 16th anniversary

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Urbashi Abritti Parishad, Sylhet held a programme on the occasion of its 16th anniversary last Friday evening at the Salfur Rahman auditorium in the city. Sylhet Zilla Parishad's Chief Executive Officer Maniruzzaman was present as chief guest. Acting Editor of the daily Sylheter Dak, Dewan Toufique Majid; Principal Mahiuddin Shiru; Sammilita Natya Parishad's Shamsul Basit; Nazrul Academy General Secretary Mishfaqe

Ahmed and Mokhlisur Rahman also spoke on the occasion. Urbashi President Mokaddes Babul chaired the event.

Zillur Rahman, general secretary of Urbashi conducted the function. Guest reciters Laila Afroze, Hasan Arif, Ahkam Ullah and Kazi Mahub Sumon along with Urbashi members Prianka Das Tithi, Rashed Chowdhury and Biplab Shaha recited poems. This was the 31st recitation programme arranged by Urbashi.

The show also included a solo guitar performance by Enamul Kabir.

## Swapnodanay goes to Kuala Lumpur



(From left) Rokeya Prachi, Mahmuduzzanman Babu and Fazlur Rahman Babu in a scene from "Swapnodanay".

Golam Rabbani Biplab's internationally film "Swapnodanay" (On the Wings of Dreams) will be screened at the Kuala Lumpur International Film Festival, Malaysia on November 27, says a press release.

A five-member group that includes producer Faridur Reza Sagar, director Golam Rabbani Biplab, actors Mahmuduzzanman Babu, Rokeya Prachi and Channel i's senior programme manager Amirul Islam has been invited to the festival.

"Swapnodanay" follows the lives of three individuals living in a remote village in the Northern part of the country. The protagonist Fazlu (played by singer Mahmuduzzanman Babu) is a peddler -- pushing items like ointments and herbal remedies. One evening he returns home with a used trouser for his son. While washing the trouser, Fazlu's wife (Rokeya Prachi) finds some foreign currency in the pockets. The couple gets over-excited at the possibility of acquiring a sizeable amount

of cash. Fazlu and his pal Siraj (Fazlur Rahman Babu) roam around the rugged locales of 'Barendrabhumi' on a beat-up motorbike, trying to exchange the foreign currency for Taka. Greed surfaces and the characters -- Fazlu, his wife and Siraj -- start weaving their individual dreams.

Noted author Anisul Huq elaborated the story and wrote the dialogues. Since its release in 2007, the film has received several international awards.



PHOTO COURTESY: SAIKAT MOJUMDER

The genre 'punk rock' is just over four decades old. Developed in the mid 1970s in the United States, United Kingdom and Australia, this new genre that evolved from rock n' roll is yet to become big in the Bangladeshi music scene. On November 24 The Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, in association with PASCH (Partners for the Future, a new school initiative programme from Germany) and local alternative band Black, arranged a punk rock concert at its auditorium. The concert featured performances by German band Nulltarif (meaning 'for free'). Members of the band -- Jules, Danny, Denis and Tobi -- performed several songs at the concert.

## Luhrmann offers "Australia" as an escape from fear

REUTERS, New York

The Outback epic "Australia" is director Baz Luhrmann's first film since he dazzled audiences with "Moulin Rouge!" seven years ago, and critics are wondering if the \$130 million drama can live up to its hype.

Early reviews are mixed but generally warm for the movie, and while some critics say it might be an Oscar contender, a best director Academy Award could prove tough -- not that Luhrmann seems concerned.

"In a world where there's a lot of fear, I hope you can come out of the cinema after a few hours and feel like it's been an enriching experience," he said in an interview, referring to the global financial crisis. "If you get a little bit of that and you have been entertained, then that is enough for me."

Starring Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman, "Australia" is the fourth film from Luhrmann, who co-wrote and directed the two-hour, 40-minute epic that is the most expensive film ever made in his homeland Australia.

It tells the tale of an English aristocrat, played by Kidman, who inherits a sprawling Outback property, falls in love with a rugged "drover" or cowboy, played by Jackman, and fights to adopt Nullah, a mixed-race boy.

They join forces to drive 1,500 head of cattle hundreds of miles across stunning yet brutal landscape in a bid to save her property and find themselves caught in the Japanese wartime bombing of Australia's tropical northern city of Darwin.



Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman in a scene from "Australia".

Luhrmann burst onto the global stage in 1992 with "Strictly Ballroom," followed by "Romeo + Juliet" (1996) and "Moulin Rouge!" which combined have earned \$390 million worldwide.

He was nominated for a best picture Academy Award for "Moulin Rouge!," which also starred Kidman, while his wife, Catherine Martin, was nominated for a best art direction-set direction for "Romeo + Juliet" and then

went on to win two Oscars for her work on "Moulin Rouge!"

Luhrmann, who grew up in the country town of Herons Creek, north of Sydney, spent four years working on "Australia" and said the scale of it had made it a struggle every day.

"Not giving up," he said was his greatest challenge. "Not succumbing to the relentless and endless difficulty of it, it was just relentless, psychologically and physically."

## No Doubt regrouping for tour and album

No Doubt will return to the road in 2009 while it finishes its first studio album in seven years.

The Los Angeles pop group made the announcement via an instant message transcript posted on its official Web site (<http://www.nodoubt.com>), but did not provide specific details.

"I have cabin fever. Maybe we should play some shows or something," guitarist Tom Dumont wrote. Vocalist Gwen Stefani answered, "I think we should go out now. I don't think we should wait. Pack up the babies and get a bunch of nannies. So fun!



No Doubt has not played live since mid-2004.

Would be so inspiring to get out there and play all those songs again."

The group then discusses how continuing to write new music on the road would be

inspiring, and vows to alert management to its plans.

No Doubt has been in the studio on and off throughout 2008. But Stefani's participation has been limited

of late, having given birth to her second son in late August.

The group has not played live since mid-2004, and its last studio album was 2001's "Rock Steady." Since then, Stefani has released two critically acclaimed solo albums, while the other group members have pursued solo and session work as well as producing. Most recently, they appear on Stone Temple Pilots frontman Scott Weiland's newly released second solo album, "Happy" in Galoshes."

Source: Internet