

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Book Launch

In memory of the theatre artist Sanjiban Shikder
Book: Mon Jabi Chai
Onshokary: Prachyanat
Venue: Lobby, Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: March 12
Time: 6pm



Adivasi Cultural Festival

Organiser: SEHD
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 12-14
Time: 4pm onwards
Inauguration: 3:30pm (March 12)



Film Screening

Organiser: High Commission of India, Cultural Centre
Venue: High Commission of India, H 35, Rd 24, Gulshan-1
Film: Slumdog Crorepati (Hindi)
Date: March 16
Time: 6pm



Film Screening

Film: Lalon
Director: Tanvir Mokammel
Venue: Bangladesh Film Centre, 160, Lake Circus, Kalabagan
Date: March 12
Time: 6pm



Homage to Mubinu Azim

Heralding a new trend in contemporary Bangladeshi art

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Mubinu Azim is considered a pioneer in the Bangladeshi art scene. He and his fellow contemporaries had a great contribution in experimental paintings. Some of them combined local motifs and various western forms.

Since the '50s and '60s, Bangladeshi painters have incorporated a diverse range of familiar, unfamiliar forms and motifs in their works. Though the contemporary art history of Bangladesh does not have long innings, it flourished here within a relatively short period. This was made possible by some painters who studied in the west in the '50s and '60s. Upon their return, the influence of renowned western artists was evident in their works. At that time, some artists took the chance to refine their skills and establish individual hallmarks. This period was significant for other reasons as well:

these painters introduced many forms of modern, abstract, abstract-impressionist and abstract-expressionist art. Their works had an enriching influence on other emerging painters as well.

Azim died in 1975, when he was at the peak of his artistic career. He produced many paintings, watercolours and sketches in the course of his short career span. He graduated in fine arts from Bangladesh College of Arts and Crafts (at present Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University) in 1955. A hardworking and reflective introvert, Azim spent a significant part of his career in Karachi -- a hub for artists, poets, writers and novelists at the time. Besides immersing himself in painting, Azim taught at an art institute in Karachi. However, he always kept in touch with his contemporaries in Dhaka.

Azim returned to Dhaka for good after the Liberation War and devoted himself to painting. He held a solo exhibition

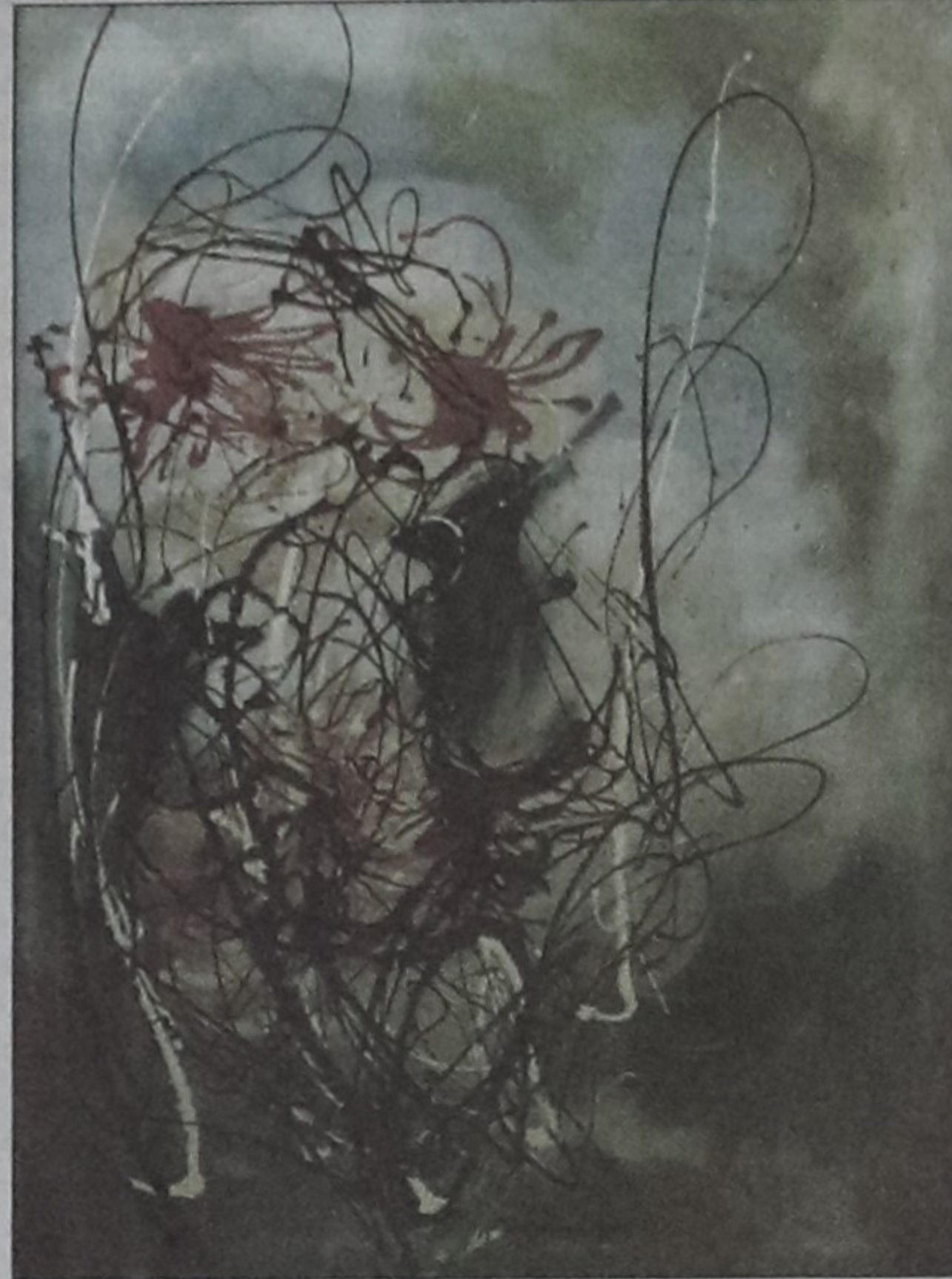


Mubinu Azim

in 1973 at Desh Art Gallery in the city. After his death, two exhibitions of his works were held at Dhaka Club (in 1976) and Shilpakala Academy (in 1998).

Azim set out as a naturalist and figurative painter. In the early stages of his career, nature played a major role in his works. Along with natural elements, colour was a predominant aspect of his works. The treatment of colour and particularly the composition was distinct and exceptional.

Today Azim's paintings,



Spring (oil on canvas), 1974

with their unique lucid qualities, have lost none of their appeal. His canvases are marked with pigment and fluidity. He always used a limited number of elements in his canvas. A good interaction between use of space and objects always carried an individual and aesthetic trademark in his works. Sometimes his works seem to convey the feel of solitude.

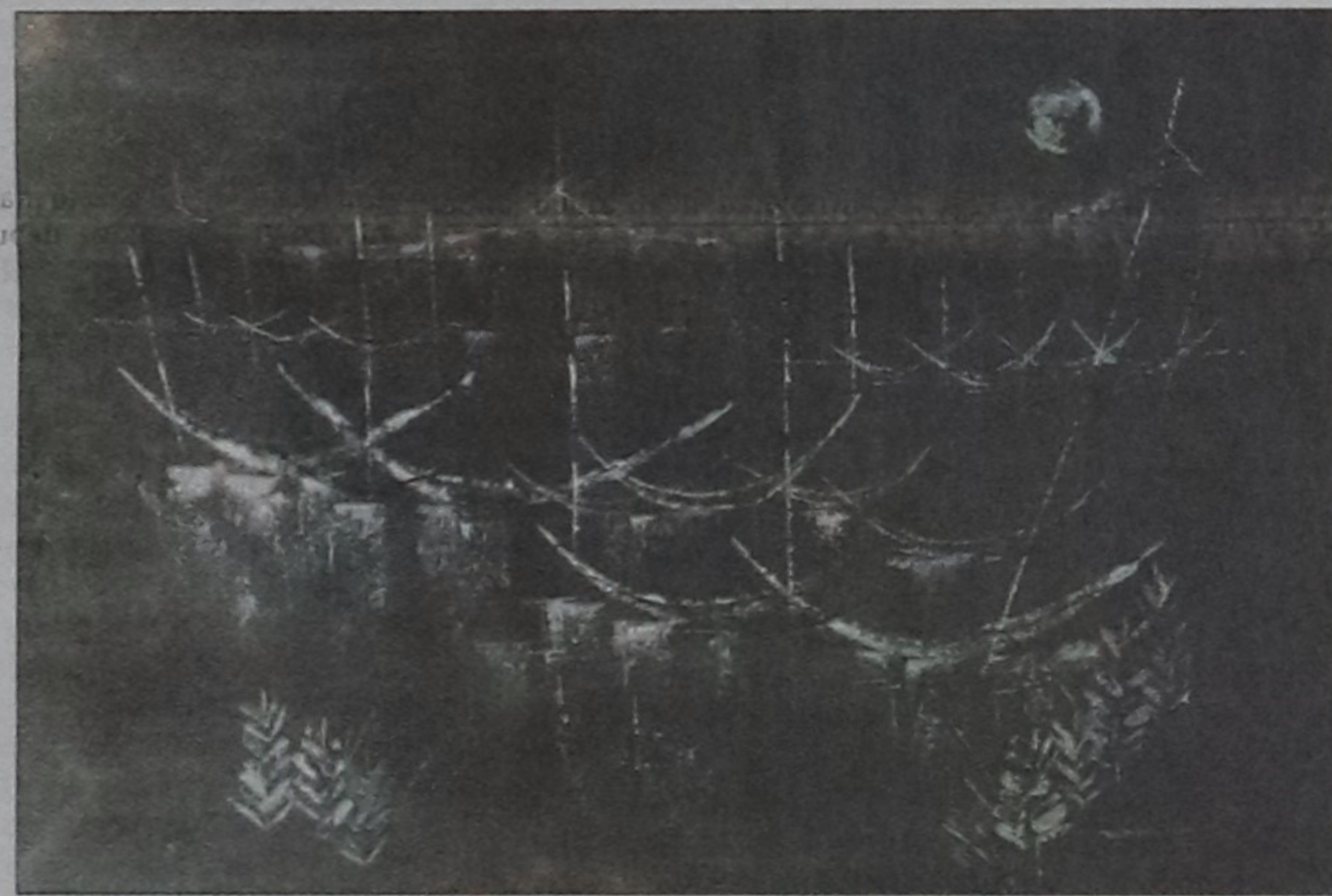
During a certain phase of his career, Azim focused on boats. He drew forms of boats that resembled the impression of a new moon or crescent. He strived to maintain a good balance between colour and forms. The interplay of darkness and light was another significant characteristic of his works.

Azim continued his quest

for novel and fresh elements in his paintings. He took to using oil paints in a style reminiscent of action painting -- quite akin to the works of Jackson Pollock. Azim was brilliant in designs and texture. His compositions assumed an expressionistic look as red, blue and other bold colours began dominating his canvas.

Azim was hardworking and devoted to his art, which explains his profound productivity in a short career span. With his demise, the country lost a great painter. The saving grace is that many proud collectors are carefully preserving his works.

Azim was an artistic genius who should be honoured with a voluminous publication on his life and works.



Fishing Boats at Night (oil on canvas), 1975

Filmmaker plans to shoot with tiny camera in eye

A one-eyed documentary filmmaker is preparing to work with a video camera concealed inside a prosthetic eye, hoping to secretly record people for a project commenting on the global spread of surveillance cameras.

Canadian filmmaker Rob Spence's eye was damaged in a childhood shooting accident and it was removed three years ago. Now, he is in the final stages of developing a camera to turn the handicap into an advantage.

A fan of the 1970s television series "The Six Million Dollar Man," Spence said he had an epiphany when looking at his cell phone camera and realising something that small could fit into his empty eye socket.

With the camera tucked inside a prosthetic eye, he hopes to be able to record the same things he sees with his working eye, his muscles moving the camera eye just like his real one.

Spence said he plans to become a "human surveillance machine" to explore privacy issues and whether people are "sleepwalking into an Orwellian society."

He said his subjects won't know he's filming until afterward but he will have to receive permission from them before including them in his film.

His special equipment will consist of a camera, originally designed for colonoscopies, a battery and a wireless transmitter. It's a challenge to get everything to fit inside the prosthetic eye, but Spence has had help from top engineers, including Steve Mann, who co-founded the wearable computers research group at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The camera was provided by Santa Clara, California-based OmniVision Inc., a company that specialises in the miniature cameras found in cell phones, laptops and endoscopes. Zafer Zamboglu, staff technical product manager at OmniVision, said he thinks that success with the eye camera will accelerate research into using the technology to restore vision to blind people.

"We believe there's a good future in the



Canadian filmmaker Rob Spence shows his prosthetic eye during an interview.

prosthetic eye," he said.

The team expects to get the camera to work in the next month. Spence, who jokingly calls himself "Eyeborg," told reporters at a media conference in Brussels that the camera hidden in a prosthetic eye -- the same pale hazel colour as his real one -- would also let him capture more natural conversations than he would with a bulky regular camera.

"As a documentary maker, you're trying to make a connection with a person," he says, "and the best way to make a connection is through eye contact."

But Spence also acknowledged privacy concerns.

"The closer I get to putting this camera eye in, the more freaked out people are about me," he said, adding people aren't sure they want to hang around someone who might be filming them at any time."

Source: Internet

Discussion and cultural programme on Int'l Women's Day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A discussion on "Jago Manush Nari Adhikarey Jago" and a cultural programme were held at Shaheed Satu Hall premises last Sunday in town on the occasion of International Women's Day.

Shachetan Nagorik Committee (SNC), Chapainawabganj, a unit of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) organised the programme. The event was presided over by the organisation's convenor N.S.M. Mahubur Rahman. Among others, SNC member Anwar Hossain Dilu; Saidur Rahman, principal of Balugram College and Sakina Khatun, councillor of Chapainawabganj Municipality spoke on the occasion.

Speakers were of the view that democracy is not effective until women's rights are fully ensured in the country. They said that as women account for half of the population, the over all development of the country would not be possible if they lag behind.

After the discussion a cultural programme was held at the venue. Artistes of Mohananda Sangeet Niketan and Ektra Shilpi Goshthi performed at the programme.

Earlier, a procession starting from the organisation's Boro Indira office went through major streets of the town and ended at Shaheed Satu Hall premises. Hundreds of people including teachers, students and NGO activists attended these programmes.



A child artiste performs at the programme.

PHOTO: STAR



"Ebong Bidyasagar," the latest production of Aranyak Natyadal was premiered at the National Theatre Stage, BSA on March 10. Written by Mannan Hira and directed by Mamunur Rashid, the play is based on the life of legendary Bengali social reformer and educationist Ishwar Chandra Bidyasagar and the contemporary society he lived in.

Shironamhin on Rtv tonight



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Musical Programme "Bashudha Tomar Jonyo Amar E Gaan" will be aired tonight at 11 pm on Rtv. The live show features popular artistes and

bands of the country. Viewers can interact with the artistes through phone calls and request for their favourite songs.

Tonight's episode of the show features popular band Shironamhin. Produced by Tanif Mahmud, the show is hosted by Laura.

Game show Hari Korai Ranna Lorai on Channel i



Momtaz (left) with host of the show, Farzana Brownia

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Cooking based game show "Hari Korai Ranna Lorai" will be aired tonight on Channel i at 7:50 pm. Hosted by Farzana Brownia, this is the third episode of the show.

Folk artiste Momtaz is the celebrity guest on tonight's episode of the show. Swarna Roy from Sylhet and Farha from Dhaka are the contestants. The audience can also participate through SMS and win prizes.

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