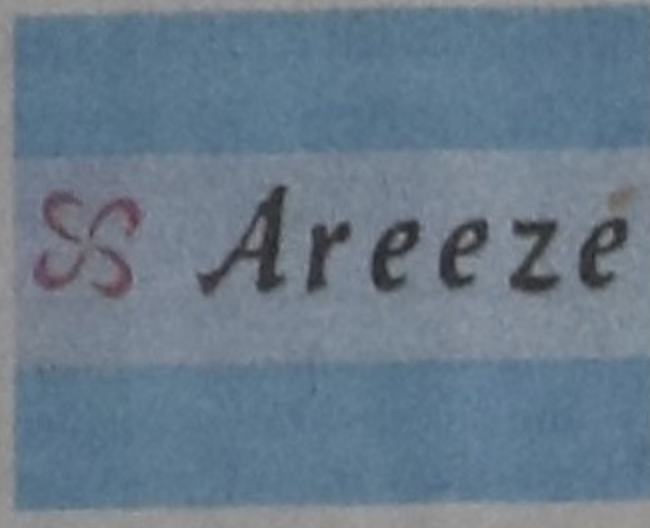


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Exhibit of Wood Engravings
 Title: Palashi Thekay
 Exhibitor: Naresh Kumar Sutradhar
 Organiser: Shudha
 Venue: National Museum
 Date: April 3-10
 Time: 9:30am-4:30pm (Fridays 3:30-7:30pm)



Bashakhi Exhibition
 Designer: Mehreen Rahman and Rezwana Islam
 Organiser: Areeze
 Venue: Cofl 11, H 34, Rd 21, Banani
 Date: April 3-5
 Time: 11am-12am



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Lyrics of Line
 Artist: Sanal Kar
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (Old), Dhanmondi
 Date: April 3-14
 Time: 12-8pm



Art Exhibition
 Artists: Jupiter Pradhan & Sauganga Damshandhan (Nepal)
 Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi
 Date: March 27-April 5
 Time: 9am-12pm, 5-8pm (Saturdays 5-8pm)



Exhibition

Distant Window: A mélange of artworks from Kolkata

TAKIR HOSSAIN

"Distant Window," a group exhibition of works by teachers of the Govt. College of Arts and Crafts, Calcutta (Kolkata), is on at Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University. The exhibition holds significance in the sense that the master painters and pioneers of our art movement including

Zainul Abedin, Quamrul Hassan, Shafiuddin Ahmed, Anwarul Haq, Habibur Rahman and Mohammad Kibria were students of the college in Kolkata.

Under the initiatives of cultural exchange, Indian painters' works are often exhibited in our country and because of cultural, social and traditional similarities between the two countries the

artworks get appreciative viewers.

"Distant Window" features works of 26 painters, in a range of different mediums.

Dipali Bhattacharya works in many mediums but particularly enjoys the flexibility of working in mixed media. Her subjects are rooted in everyday life and environment of Kolkata. Her visual is highly stylised. The

artist has taken part in several group exhibitions in Bangladesh earlier.

Kamalaksha Gangopadhyay mainly depicts feminine beauty, adorned with flora, on his canvas. Bengali women, in all their glory, illuminate his canvas.

Dipak Mukherjee is in his mid fifties and continues to enrich the Indian art movement with his creativity.

Figures and objects create a unique dimension in his works. "Composition," by Mukherjee, features a woman with a violin. Her seemingly closed eyes convey a contemplative mood.

Somnath Roy is a non-figurative and non-objective painter. His works have a shadowy and mysterious quality. Experimenting with colour and texture is also one of his traits. His images have a watercolour-like transparency.

Rebanta Goswami portrays a number of faces with distinctive styles. Each face has an individual expression. His colours are subdued. One gets an impression of ethnic diversity from the profiles.

Ratan Acharya's work does not stand out, as far as unique, new ideas are concerned. Women and flowers are recurring subjects in paintings in both Bangladesh and India. But the crescent moon in Acharya's painting does add a certain touch. Black, yellow and crimson are dominating in his works.

Manoj Sarkar's painting features a figure, coiled in great pain and anguish. Distorted faces, figures and forms are often references to political, social and economical instability. Manoj's forms are moving and portray intolerable pain.

Lipika Bala's work frames a romantic and adoring sight -- a couple sitting on a couch and perhaps reminiscing happy memories. A television, table fan, lamp and other homely objects creates a realistic image of a middle-class living room.

Kiran Kumar Sen's works are dominated by various forms and vivacious colours. His images are lively and provocative. The red horizon in his work on display may inspire the viewer to contemplate the perspective of the earth.

The exhibition ends on April 7.



Clockwise (from top-left): Works by Kiran Kumar Sen, Dipak Mukherjee, Dipali Bhattacharya and Kamalaksha Gangopadhyay.

Bangladesh Night Muscat '08 on Channel i



Sabina Yasmin performing at the Bangladesh Night '08 in Muscat.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Last year in December, a live extravaganza performed by Bangladeshi artistes was organised by Oman International Exchange at the Amphitheatre in Muscat, Oman. The show will be aired on Channel i today at 2:30pm.

Causing much enthusiasm among the expatriate Bangladeshis in Muscat, the grand event featured performances by several prominent and promising Bangladeshi artistes. Hosted by Farhadur Reza Prabal, the event was well attended by over 6000 people.

including dignitaries and ambassadors of several countries. Hasan Abidur Reza Jewel directed the show.

Celebrated artistes Sabina Yasmin, Momtaz, Ankhi Alamgir, Biplab, Nakul Kumar Biswas, "Channel i Shera Kantho" winner Jhilik, Sharmin, Imran and Romel performed at the event. Model Nobel and actress Tisha along with local artistes of Oman also performed at the show. Impress Telefilm was the media partner of the event. Litterateur Rabeya Khatun, food connoisseur and chef Keka Ferdousi, and Abdul Mukit Majumdar Babu were present at the show on behalf of Impress Telefilm.

Bari Bari Shari Shari on ntv

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Bari Bari Shari Shari" will be aired on ntv tonight at 8:15pm. Written and directed by Shafayet Mansur Rana, the serial is aired every Saturday and Sunday.

The serial centres on a residential colony in the city. Mahmud is a government official living in the colony. A conservative man, Mahmud has two daughters -- one is a university student and the other is about to finish school. There is a conflict between the father and the daughters, as the girls find it difficult to cope with his rigid values. Ferdous, Mahmud's nephew, moves in with the family, bringing in new



Richi Solaiman in a scene from the serial.

troubles. Another family living in the same colony is a working couple -- Nahrin and Asif. Both are quite progressive, yet their conjugal life seems unsettled at times.

The cast includes Hasan Masud, Tanveen Sweetey, Homayra Himu, Monalisa, Richi Solaiman, Challenger, Iresh Zaker, Shohel Khan, Sharmili Ahmed, Wahida Mallik Jolly and others.

Call to uphold Marma traditions and culture

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

At a discussion recently, speakers urged the government to preserve the Marma language, and the ethnic group's rich culture and traditions.

One route, they said, was to introduce the language at the primary school level. They also pointed out that it is impossible to understand other languages or have a

multilingual education without a sound base in one's mother tongue.

Speakers then called for protection of the rights of the indigenous communities in all sectors in the state.

These observations were made at a discussion organised by the Bangladesh Marma Students Council (BMSC) at Bangladesh Marma Sangathan Oikko Parishad premises in the hill

district of Khagrachhari to mark BMSC's two decades in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

Lecturer of Economics, Jahangirnagar University, Anu Muhammad was present as chief guest while former BMSC president, Usha Prue Marma presided over the discussion.

Among the speakers were convener of Gono Sanghati Andolon, Junaid Siddiki; Marma writer and researcher, Kayasheprue Marma Khoka; Khagrachhari Hill District Council member, Sanu Mong Marma; Bangladesh Marma Sangathan Oikko Parishad advisor, Mrs. Athowai Marma and its president, Kongchairi Marma.

To celebrate the day a colourful rally paraded the main streets of Khagrachhari. Some 100 students participated in the rally, attired in their traditional clothes, masks, and bearing posters, banners and leaflets.



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Furious auto race franchise gets its mojo back

It's kind of like those ads for automotive additives: Just put Brand X into your motor oil and look at that car spark back to life! In the case of "Fast & Furious," Brand X is Vin Diesel and Paul Walker.

In 2001, "The Fast and the Furious" launched a franchise about illegal street racing that now encompasses four films. Yet "Fast & Furious" is the first true sequel of the bunch. By reuniting the two stars from the original and -- smartly ignoring the intervening films -- continuing the story from the first film, this new film should re-ignite the franchise.

As with the entire series, the stories serve as an excuse to downshift quickly to chases. But the new film, which opened this weekend, does allow time for the characters to interact and develop so that audience concerns extend beyond who'll win the next race. Box office should be strong for the Universal release, especially among young males.

The story by Chris Morgan relies heavily enough on relationships established in the original film that those not familiar with this franchise may want to look at the DVD before taking in the new movie. In the earlier film's wild finish, Walker's undercover cop Brian O'Conner, a racer himself suffering from divided loyalties, allowed Diesel's outlaw racer Dominic Toretto to slip

across the Mexican border to escape authorities even as he let down Dom's sister, Mia (Jordana Brewster), who had fallen for Brian.

"Fast & Furious" starts off with an action sequence worthy of James Bond's signature openings. Dom and his old L.A. girlfriend Letty (Michelle



"Fast & Furious" reunites Paul Walker and Vin Diesel from the original.

Rodriguez) lead a gang of road warriors trying to hijack oil tanks hauled by a big rig on a Dominican Republic highway. As the crews race alongside the truck, the women board them like pirates and uncouple the huge tanks

one by one. But the hijacking goes seriously awry, ending in a fireball on a mountain road that the heroes escape only by the miracle of top-notch second-unit work, CGI effects and tight editing.

The rest of the story takes place back in Southern California, where

and Mia discover that the romantic sparks are still there.

Anything is an excuse for a chase. Just to infiltrate the drug gang as drivers, Dom and Brian must participate in a no-rules illegal street race in and around Echo Park, Silver Lake and downtown Los Angeles that destroys half the streets. Just to get a name from an informant, Brian chases the snitch across rooftops, blows through a glass window and crashes two stories onto a car roof. Whatever happened to messages being left in phone booths?

The two major car stunts involve a tunnel beneath the U.S./Mexican border that adds a juicy claustrophobic element to the death-defying manoeuvres and crashes. Justin Lin, the returning director from "The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift," performs a neat balancing act between nonsensical story points and serious dramatic moments, making story and character flow smoothly into hyper action.

All four films feature terrific stunts. But "Fast & Furious" is the first film since the original to be smart about how far to stretch logic without sacrificing the desired macho swagger and revved-up emotions.

Dom returns seeking vengeance after Letty is murdered, having gotten caught up with a vicious drug cartel. Naturally, Brian is also on the case, so the two rivals find themselves reluctantly working together while Brian

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Source: Internet