

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Exhibition

Title: European Commission Logo Competition '09
Organiser: The Delegation of the European Commission
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi
Date: April 23-May 7
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Searching
Artist: Nusrat Jahan Nazlee
Venue: Radius Centre-Bay's Galleria, 5th Floor, 57, Guleshan Avenue
Date: April 17- May 1



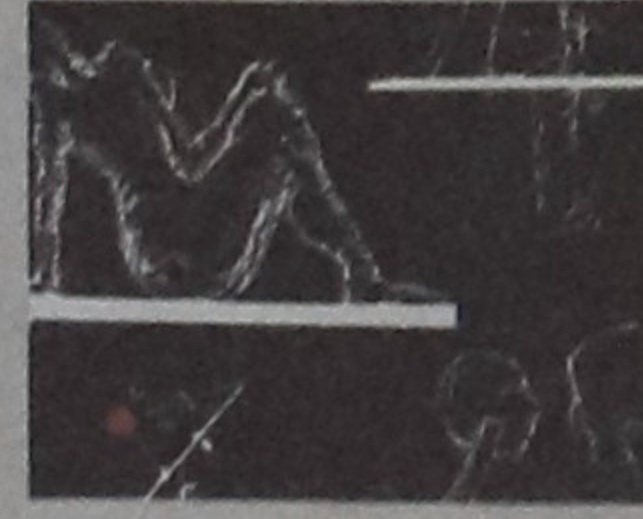
Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Touching the Reality
Artist: Golam Faruque
Venue: Shilpangan, H 26, Rd 3, Dhanmondi
Date: April 17-26
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Lyrical Lines
Artist: Rashed Kamal Russell
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Date: April 17-30
Time: 9 am- 12 pm and 5 pm- 8 pm



Int'l Dance Day

Dancers take to the floor from April 23



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Over the last six years, Bangladesh Nritya Shilpi Shangstha (BNSS) has been celebrating the International Dance Day (April 29) with much festivity. This year the organisation has planned to commemorate the day with a weeklong programme, which will commence on April 23 at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA).

Noted danseuse and vice president of BNSS, Minu Haque, informed that after the formal inauguration in Dhaka, celebrations will take place in several cities such as in Chittagong, Khulna,

Rajshahi, Sylhet, Mymensingh and Bogra. Haque said that the decision to hold programmes throughout the country aims at interacting with the greater population and to generate mass interest in dance.

Approximately 1000 dance artists (including several indigenous participants) from all parts of the country will perform at this year's celebration.

One of the highpoints of this year's programme is a dance fair featuring everything related to the art form. The fair will take place at the plaza of National Art Gallery, BSA.

Every year a UNESCO dignitary conveys a message to mark the day and this year will not be any excep-

tion. Other highlights of the festival would be a seminal on the present state of dance in the country and an award giving ceremony. Three lifetime achievement awards, named after legendary dance artists -- Bulbul Chowdhury, G.A. Mannan and Gawhar Jamil -- will be conferred.

On April 29, the daylong programme will start with a colourful rally early in the morning and Haque hopes numerous cultural personalities from every sector will attend the rally.

Haque's own organisation Nrityadhara (she is the convener of Nrityadhara) is one of the front-liners to co-operate BNSS in successfully arranging the festival.

Srishti Cultural Center to hold dance festival

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate International Dance Day on April 29, dance organisation Srishti Cultural Centre (SCC) will hold a two-day dance festival at National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, starting from April 25.

Titled "Twilight Rhythm Dance Festival," the event will feature around a 100 dancers from across the country.

Speaking on the upcoming festival, Anisul Islam Hero, dancer and director, SCC said, "We hope to promote the art of dance through this event, as well as introduce the medium to the younger generation."

"Not just leading dancers from Dhaka, artistes from different districts of the country will share the stage to celebrate dance," said Hero.

The festival will feature performances by Shamim Ara Nipa and Shibli Mohammed from Nrityanchal; Sohul Rahman, Farzana Riya, Munmun Ahmed, Tamanna Rahman, Sharmila Banerjee, Mehbuba Mahnoor, Benazir Salam, Anisul Islam Hero,



(From left) Mahbuba Mahnoor Chandni, Anisul Islam Hero and Juditha Ohlmacher at the press conference.

Sabrina Nisa, Nadia Ahmed and others.

Group dance performances will be staged by Chhayanat, Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA), Jago Art Centre and Spondon.

Kathak dancer Juditha Ohlmacher (from the US) will also perform at the event.

Other performers include Prema Obonti and her dance troupe (from Chittagong); Enamul Haque and his troupe (Khulna) and Amra Kojon Shilpi Gosthi (Bogra).

On the opening day, artistes will perform contemporary and classical dances -- Bharatnatyam, Manipuri, Kathak and Odissi. The next day, artistes will stage original compositions.

On the occasion, SSC held a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity, yesterday. Anisul Islam Hero, Mahbuba Mahnoor, Sabrina Nisa, Rumana Chowdhury and others were present at the conference. This is the first dance festival by SSC. The event is co-sponsored by Srishti, Kazi & Kazi Tea and Concord group.

BUZZ

Deep Nevar Ag-E: Breaking free from one-dimensional war movie mode

KARIM WAHEED

Movies on Liberation War, in particular those featuring combat scenes, are few and far between. Another issue that mars this genre, according to film enthusiasts, is that these movies are mostly one-dimensional.

Filmmaker Ilajar Islam says, "When I saw 'Schindler's List,' I thought, 'why can't we have a movie like this on the Liberation War?' I want everything in a war movie. Not just combat scenes, or people running for their lives. Don't get me wrong, war is very real and it changes priorities but life also goes on. The circumstances were hostile but there were weddings (albeit few), babies were born, and though there were no grand festivities, it's just human nature to celebrate the occasion by sharing sweets with your near and dear ones."

"For example, when the 'Pilkhana tragedy' unfurled, the whole city was tensed and everyone was waiting with bated breath for

A clip from the film, posted on Facebook, has already generated impressive reactions from net-savvy enthusiasts. The clip is sort of an artistic mishmash of scenes, with music being a crucial feature. One character manifests his passion for contemporary (1970s') rock music, another is contemplating holding off his wedding till the war is over. The war had clearly drawn a divisive line and one West Pakistani mother doesn't know which side she belongs to; her Bengali son is determined to go to war with the Pakistani army.

"Deep Nevar Ag-E" also stands out because of the attention the filmmaker, scriptwriter (Asif Iftekhar Piyash) and the rest of the production team have committed to recreating the ambience of that particular time. According to Piyash and Ilajar, army vehicles and ammo from that period cannot be accessed. "We had to conduct extensive research and design dummies that resemble objects used in the war," says Piyash.

"The film also gives the Pakistani



A production still from "Deep Nevar Ag-E"

the standoff to end. It was my brother's birthday and obviously the plan to celebrate with friends and relatives was cancelled but we did cut a small cake at home and shared it. And that's my point; even in the harshest of times we experience fleeting moments of joy. I wanted to make a movie on the Liberation War that'd break free from the usual one-dimensional mode."

Ilajar is working on his debut feature film, "Deep Nevar Ag-E." The film follows a group of university students who become guerrillas during the Liberation War. Urban young movie lovers should find these characters relatable. The characters all have their individual aspirations, lifestyles and set of relationships. As the war breaks out, they become one and fuelled by the rage of rebel youth, they decide to engage in direct combat for freedom.

characters complete identities rather than showing some men with overplayed depraved expressions and badly written and delivered Urdu dialogue (as seen in most movies on the Liberation War)," says Ilajar. "In one scene an officer receives a call from his wife in Pakistan. He asks about her and their kids' well being. The officer had shot an adolescent -- suspected of being an informant -- just before the phone call. Humans are capable of the most despicable crimes; animals are not. That scene validates the humanness of a man who had just killed someone his son's age," he adds.

"Deep Nevar Ag-E," produced by Dog's Day Film, is in proper digital cine-format and features new faces in the lead roles. The production team hopes to release the film in December this year. Arnob is the music director of the film.

Snoop Dogg to be waxed at Tussauds

Rapper Snoop Dogg is set to become the first living rapper to be immortalized in wax for Madame Tussauds.

"Fa shizzle dizzle I said yes when asked," the rapper told the People magazine adding, "I'm honored! The D O double G got a double."

Dogg said, "It's real to be immortalized (in wax) in the ranks with President Barack Obama."

The twelve times Grammy nominated rapper will have his figure unveiled on Monday, April 20 at Madame Tussauds in Las Vegas. The figure would be positioned in the "On Stage" area of the museum.

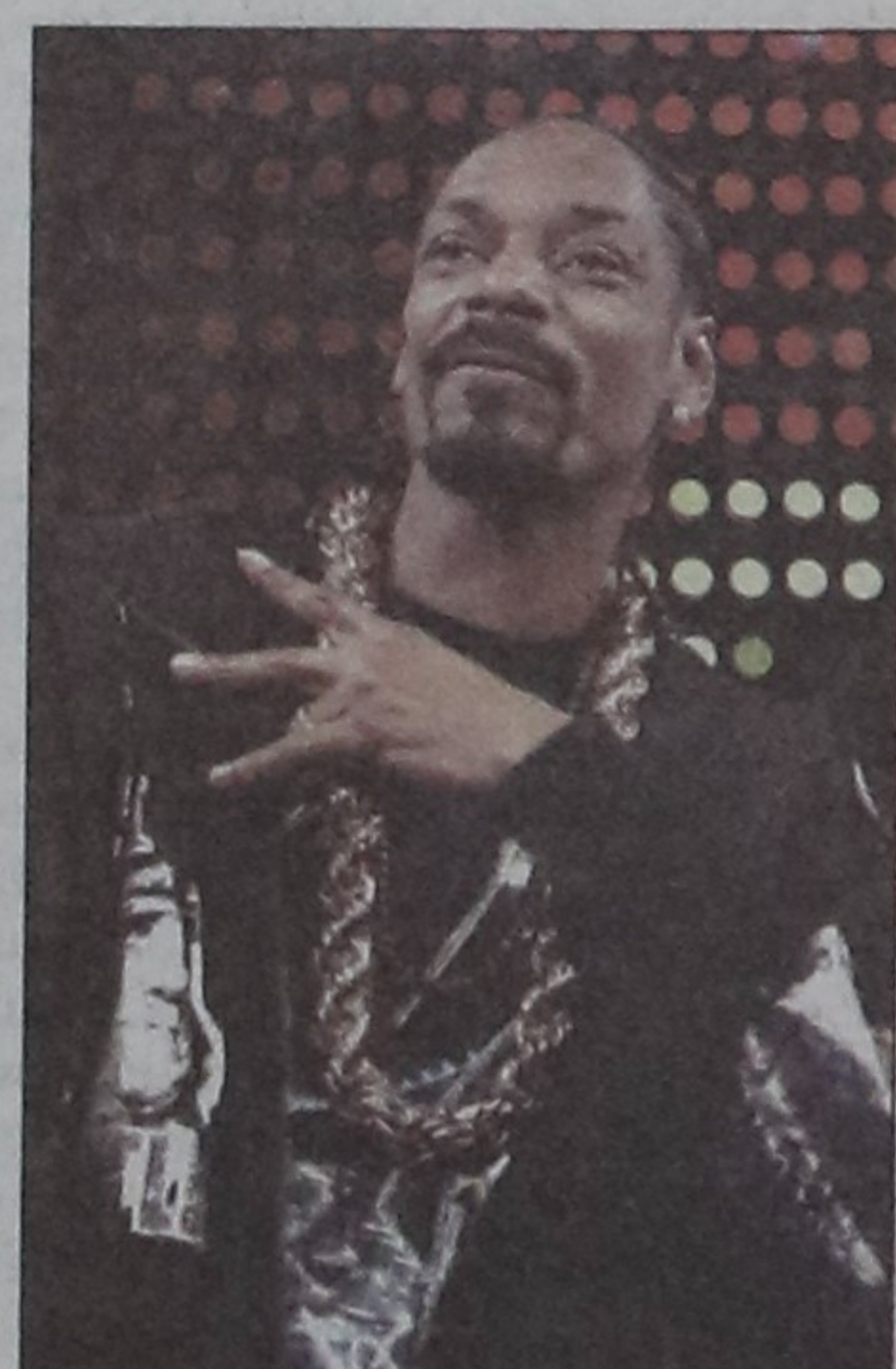
The 36-year-old artist will be the third rap icon on display at one of the famous museums.

A shirtless and tattooed Tupac Shakur's wax figure resides in Vegas, while Biggie Smalls's figure is in New York. Both rappers received the honour posthumously.

However Snoop, whose USD 300,000 statue will sport his trademark braided cornrows, was one of the most wanted artistes to be waxed.

"When we asked guests who they wanted to see next, Snoop was at the top of the list," Roxanne Holland of Madame Tussaud's said.

Holland said, "When our team from



London met with Snoop in Hollywood, he gave us about two hours and we took nearly 200 measurements, matched eye, skin and hair colouring."

Source: Internet



PHOTO STAR

A group of noted percussionists and dancers of Pallavi put up a superb performance at the gala night of the Ninth Bangladesh Business Awards ceremony held at Sonargaon Hotel recently. Manam Ahmed orchestrated the instruments while the dance piece -- a fusion of Manipuri and classical was choreographed by eminent dancer Minu Haque. As part of the 400 years of celebrations of Dhaka, the background stage setting depicted varied images of the city as they emerged through times.

