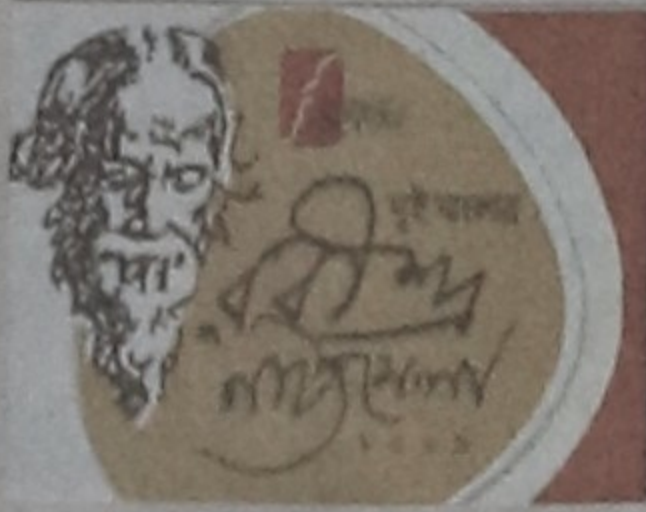


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Rabindra Theatre Festival
Organiser: Pranganey Mor
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: May 1-8
May 6 at 6pm
Play: Khudita Pashan
Troupe: Subachan Natya Shangsad



Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Utshab
Organiser: Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Sangatha
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library
Date: May 5-9
Inauguration at 6:30pm



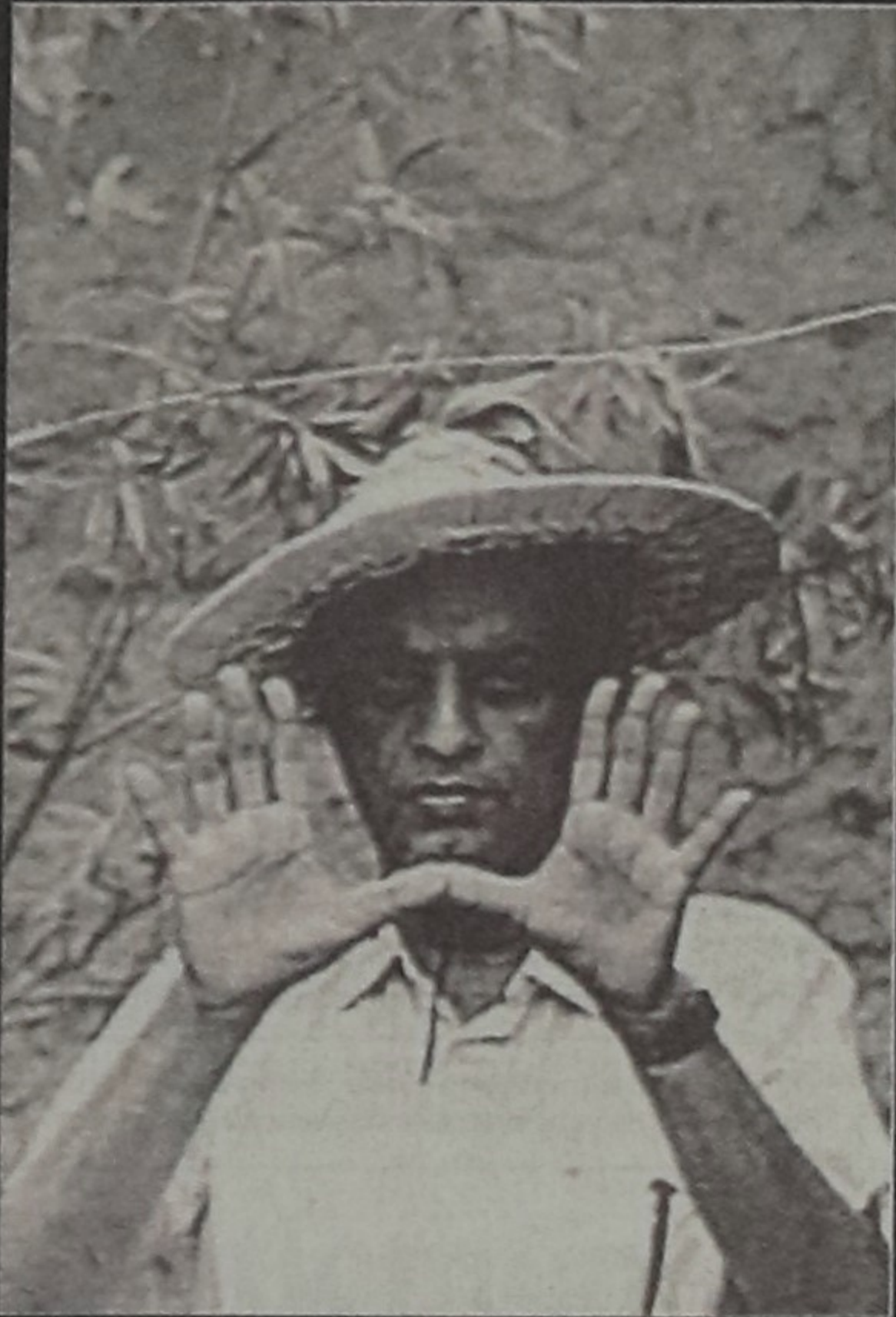
Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Urban Delight
Artist: Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (Old), Dhanmondi
Date: May 7-20
Time: 12-8 pm



Clay Art Exhibition
Title: Clay Art by Harappa
Organiser: Harappa
Venue: Drik Gallery, H58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: May 2-8
Time: 3-8pm
Inauguration on May 1 at 5pm



Ray: Loved, but not followed



"Dignity, understatement and compassion, which were the hallmarks of Satyajit Ray films, have vanished from Indian cinema. Instead, we now have fast-paced films with protagonists who are alien to us and themes with which the majority of the audience can't relate," said noted lyricist and scriptwriter Javed Akhtar in Kolkata last Sunday.

Delivering the Satyajit Ray memorial lecture, Akhtar said that today's films, especially mainstream cinema reflect a worrying social change. "In a way, they mirror the fact that we are not ready to stop and think. Everyone is in a hurry and is looking for instant gratification without caring for those around them. We are making films that sell this lifestyle to a small, affluent, multiplex-going audience that doesn't bother about the small-town and rural population. Ray's films depicted a compassion, a sensitivity that is sadly missing not just from films, but from our lives as well," said Akhtar.

Referring to "Jalsaghar," "Kanchanjungha" and "Jana Aranya," the veteran rhymester said Ray's films never had any downright negative character. "The characters only had negative shades. They were people trapped in their own thinking and beliefs. While Hindi films had ferocious villains who only evoked hatred, you actually felt sad for Ray's negative characters. Such was the sensitivity of the man," Akhtar said.

Blaming a US-inspired lifestyle for making viewers impatient about serious cinema, he said it's a bad sign for Indian films. "We are trying to hide our own inadequacies that have resulted from a skewed education system. It has not trained us to appreciate our own culture and tradition. Vernacular education, on the other hand, has somewhat isolated us from the world. We need to take a long, hard look at ourselves. Or else, we shall continue to feel incomplete and fail to appreciate the subtlety that Ray's films depicted," said Akhtar.

Source: Internet

How shadows manipulated European art

Exhibition at Museo Thyssen

TAKIR HOSSAIN, back from Madrid

The shadow has always been closely related to the history of Western art. Shadow adds a contemplative and dreamy aspect to painting. Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza and Fundacion Caja Madrid have jointly organised an exhibition titled "Shadows" that is now on at Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, in Madrid.

The aim of this exhibition is to draw the art enthusiast's attention to a host of the implications, issues and solutions inherent in the representation of shadows in art from the Renaissance to present day. The exhibition is theme oriented and divided into two sections: the rooms of Museo Thyssen display the works from the 15th century to 19th century, while Fundacion Caja Madrid features works from the 20th century including paintings, photography and films.

At the exhibition Pablo Picasso's "The Shadow on the Woman" presents an abstract image of a lonely woman. The painting also highlights some of Picasso's recurring motifs and the bold vertical, horizontal lines and forms. Picasso is one of the most recognised icons of 20th century and he is best known for Cubism.

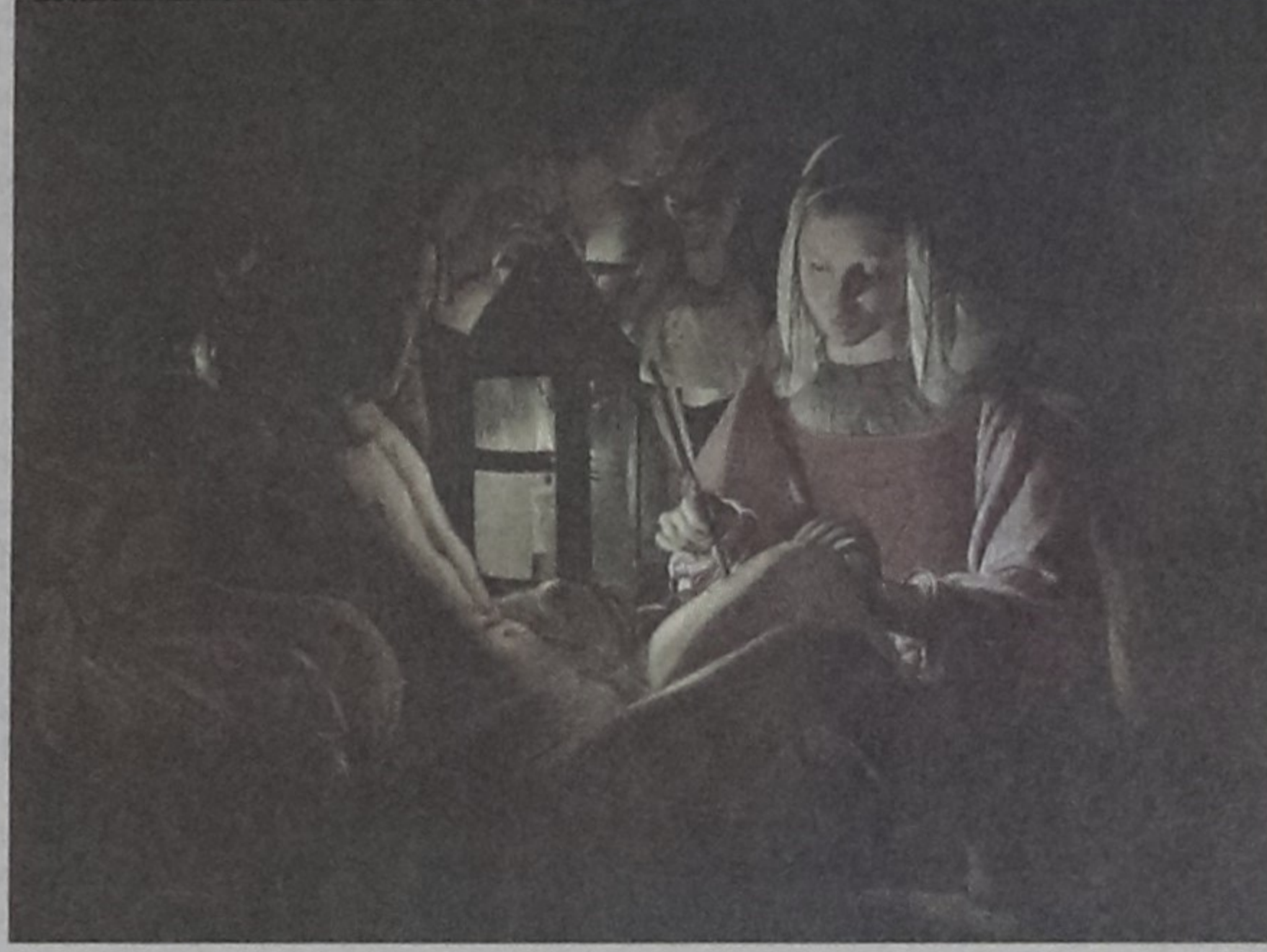
Claude Monet is best known for his series on water lilies, Monet mainly painted landscapes and seascapes. His paintings are scenic, serene and fetching. In his paintings, the sky always appears spacious and his colours feel livelier than other aspects. At the exhibition, one of his paintings features a green meadow by a narrow dirt road. A long shadow of trees has fallen on the road, giving the work a reflective mood. The painting was done in 1864.

Salvador Dali needs no introduction. The iconic artist is best known for his fantastic and lyrical surrealist images. At the exhibition, a number of Dali's works present unusual visions while others delve into time and history.

Edouard Vuillard was a French impressionist painter and his works feature the inner relation between man and woman. Most of his works focus on human relationships and the various aspects related to them. Black is dominant in his works, giving them a shadowy impression. Lucid composition and warm colours are also noticeable in Vuillard's works.

Emile Friant was a French painter who delved into photo-realism. The medium is now extensively used in Western and American art. One of Friant's paintings on display depicts an enamoured couple and the shadow is very much visible.

Andy Warhol -- American painter, printmaker -- was a pioneering figure in the visual art movement known as 'pop art.' He is recognised for zooming in on facial expressions. His images give the



Artworks by (clockwise from top): Georges de La Tour, Claude Monet and Christian Schad



viewers a taste of super-realism. His images in colour give an impression of inner struggle.

Christian Schad is renowned for his close association with the 'Dada Movement.' His portraits are very dynamic and give the viewers a taste of realism. At the exhibition, a portrait by Schad shows a seated gentleman in a sombre mood. A menacing shadow is seen behind the image.

Francisco Goya was a printmaker and painter and his works were engrossed with struggle, pain, disquiet and hostility in the society. He liked to work on large canvas and the canvases portrayed many stories simultaneously. Many figures and their individual expressions make Goya's works remarkable.

Lorenzo Lotto was an Italian painter who is noted for bringing various striking moments in his paintings. He worked mainly on religious subjects, social



dilemma and portraits. His paintings have strong elements inspired by the baroque style, delving into mythical and historic moments, with a feel of stage drama.

Giorgio de Chirico's paintings depict diverse architectural shapes and lines. The ancient structure appears glowing and flamboyant. One can observe the dominance of light and shade in the painting. Black and light yellow create a distinct look.

Georges de La Tour painted mainly religious scenes and often followed the 'genre style.' At the exhibition one of his paintings denotes a moving image of a nurse who is taking care to an injured soldier. Bleeding from the chest, the soldier is eagerly waiting for his recovery. Light illuminates the wounded spot and the rest of the canvas is occupied by shade. The highlight is expression in the eyes of the subjects.

Dima Nefertiti: Breathing life into poetry

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

With the numbers of Bangladeshi satellite TV channels growing in the last decade, TV news has become one of the most watched programmes. News presenters also enjoy this popularity and many among them are considered stars now. Dima Nefertiti, news presenter on ATN Bangla, has become a familiar face to the TV audience through her powerful oratory, diction and sensible presentation of news. With bachelors and masters degrees in Journalism from Dhaka University, Dima understands her job from a journalistic standpoint, which makes her presentation more acceptable to the audience. While news presenting is her profession, recitation remains her passion. Her identity as a reciter was unbeknown to many until recently. With three albums featuring recitation by her, Nefertiti recently spoke to The Daily Star on the performing art form.

"The fascination with recitation grew in me since childhood; most of my family members are keen on this particular art form. My father, in particular, encouraged me a lot to read and recite poetry. At an early age, I had learnt many poems by Tagore, Nazrul and other renowned poets, at times without even fully understanding them. When I was five, I participated at a poetry recitation competition for the first time in my life and won the first prize. I received my award from poet Sufia Kamal. Recitation has been an inseparable part of my life since then," says Nefertiti.

Nefertiti has been a member of different organisation of reciters such as Kathasheelan and Swarkalpan throughout her university life and took part in many cultural programmes. She also received tutelage from eminent recitation artiste Noren Biswas.

"If I call news presenting my profession, recitation is my obsession. However, I never find these two conflicting, rather recitation complements my profession. Recitation helps one to pursue other performing art forms like acting or even singing. News presentation needs a combination of the art of recitation, acting and understanding of the topic you are speaking on. So it has been easy for me to continue these two together," she says.

Nefertiti had her first album of recitation, titled "Aranya O Megher Kachhey," released in 2005. Her second solo album, titled "Shudhu Ekbar Tomakey Chho(n)bo" was released in 2007. This year, her first duet album -- with noted reciter Kazi Arif -- has been released recently. In the album, "Brishti Chinhito Bhalobasha, two reciters representing two generations came together to breathe life into romantic poetry. Poet-playwright-litterateur Syed Shamsul Haq and poet Nirmalendu Gunn unveiled the album. The album features poems by Rabindranath Tagore, Buddhadev Basu, Jibananda Das, Shahid Kadri, Shamsur Rahman, Syed Shamsul Haq, Mahadev Saha, Tokon Thakur, Joy Goswami, Sunil Gangopadhyay and others.

"I've received a warm response for the album. Each of the poems in it has its own individual appeal. We've tried to bring something new and fresh in presentation too. I hope the audience will like it," says the artiste.



Nefertiti (left) recently released an album with noted reciter Kazi Arif.

Bari Siddiqui on tonight's Gaanalap

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Banglavisión will air the musical programme "Gaanalap" tonight at 9:05 pm. Tonight's episode will feature noted flautist and folk singer Bari Siddiqui as the guest. Siddiqui will perform some of his popular folk songs including -- "Amar gaaye joto dukkhho shoy," "Ashadh maisha bhasha pani," "Shuachan paakhi" and more. The guest will also share his memories, thoughts regarding music, future plans and more.



Bari Siddiqui (left) performs on tonight's Gaanalap.



The publication ceremony of the book, "Rabindranath Tagore: Reclaiming A Cultural Icon" was held on May 1 at the Indian Cultural Centre, Gulshan. Noted educationist Professor Khan Sarwar Murshid (Centre) unveiled the book. The book published by Visva-Bharati Granthan Vibhag, Kolkata, edited by Kathleen M. O'Connell and Joseph T. O'Connell (left), both from University of Toronto, Canada. Among others, Professor Jamal Nazrul Islam (right) was present at the programme.

Five Farooki films to be screened in London



Mostafa Sarwar Farooki

Five of Mostafa Sarwar Farooki's video films will be screened at a programme in London on May 17, says a press release. The films -- "Waiting Room-2," "Un-Manush," "First Date," "Spartacus '71" and "No Man's Land" -- will be screened at the programme arranged by London-based organisation Time Media Production (TMP).

Farooki himself will attend the programme and an interactive session with the audience. During his brief visit to London, Farooki will also attend a workshop on films arranged by TMP. A documentary on the talented filmmaker will also be screened at the workshop.