

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Dance Drama

Title: Savitri by Aurobindo Anusilan Society  
Organiser: High Commission of India, Dhaka and Indian Council for Cultural Relations  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Date and time: May 14 at 7pm



### Solo Performance

Marking three decades of musical career  
Artist: Shakila Zafar  
Organiser: Amra Shurjomukhi  
Venue: Main Auditorium, National Museum  
Date and time: May 16 at 6pm



### Cultural Show

Title: Lakrangana '09  
Organiser: Sri Lanka Women's Association & High Commission of Sri Lanka  
Venue: Infi School of Dhaka  
Date: May 16  
Time: 6:30pm



### Photography Exhibition

Title: The Story of Tea Workers  
Photographer: Philip Goin  
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15/A (new), Dhanmondi  
Date: May 10-19  
Time: 3-8pm



## Fernando Bellver: A multi-talented figure in Spanish art



Fernando Bellver has been honoured with the Spanish National Grand Prize for Printmaking this year. An artwork from him (right).

TAKIR HOSSAIN, back from Spain

Fernando Bellver is one of the leading painters, printmakers and sculptors of Spain. Bellver is distinguished for portraits, various familiar and unfamiliar objects and the depiction of Spanish customs, culture, carnivals and occupations. He is also known for his craftsmanship and mastery in the use of light and shade. His drawings, paintings, sculptures, prints are on display in a number of significant museums, galleries and various prestigious places in Spain. Bellver is a regular painter and printmaker; consequently his works have been frequently exhibited in Spain and other parts of the world. Bellver's paintings also speak to the viewers in an intimate relation about time and moment, one of the favourite chapters of human life, immersed in bliss, woes and boundless events.

This year, he has been honoured with the Spanish National Grand Prize for Printmaking, a significant achievement for an artist. Bellver is hard working and enjoys immersing himself in different styles and always tries to keep an individual impression in his works. His works explore various angles of humour, romanticism, fantasy, pleasure and satire. Many

messages are immersed in his works that indicate the present social, political and economic milieu of the world.

Bellver's main concern is to paint his surroundings in simple manner so that people can connect with his thinking process and philosophy. He always emphasises the relation between human beings and art. While talking to this correspondent, Bellver stated, "Art is a mirror of our way of life. Art denotes time, moment, history, culture and civilisation."

Bellver's lines are very lyrical, poetic, delicate and impressive. Drawing is a major aspect of his works and he meticulously uses his skilled hands. "My canvas is the mirror of my everyday activities. My daily useable objects are the main themes of my canvas. Everyday I find new subjects for my canvases," said Bellver.

When Bellver works at his studio, ingredients such as cigars, hats, paint brushes and umbrellas frequently appear in his paintings. He enjoys travelling and his restless soul is always in search of new cultures and traditions. During his stay in hotels, he discovers subjects in particular tables, spoons, various foods and fruits, if they differ in the slightest from those seen ordinarily. His works look very catchy for their colour composition and splendid

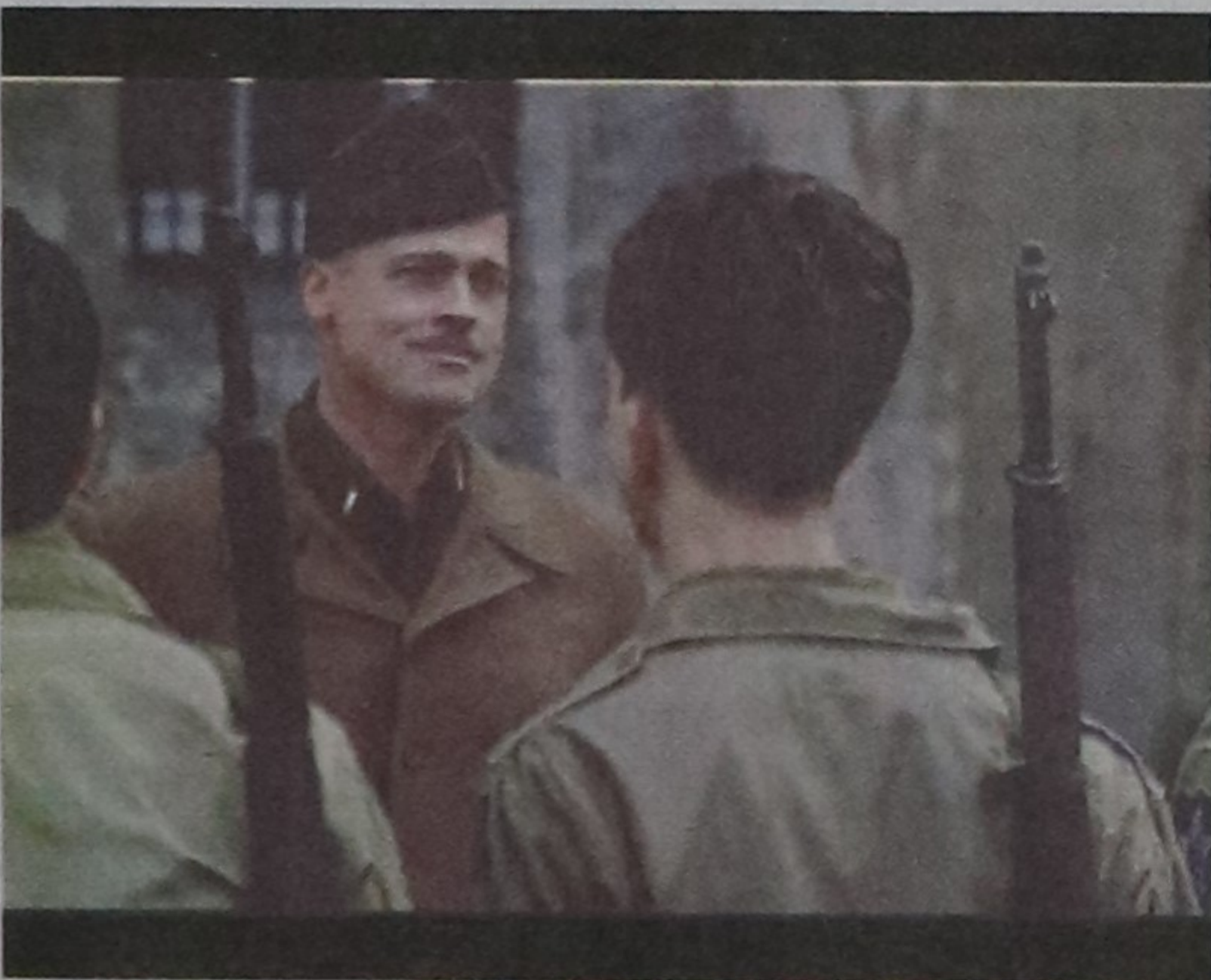
arrangement. His composition and themes are not at all complicated because he likes to communicate with others through his creations.

Many of his works have emerged from viewing people's various leisure moments like reading newspapers, thinking, sitting, gossiping and sleeping. Teacups, telephones, shoes, wine bottles and other day to day familiar objects also come up in his works. The works are colour dominated, well varnished and gleaming. Fernando also enjoys printmaking and, of course, specially colour printing.

"My imagination throws forward innumerable pictures, visions which I long to realise. Sometimes I want to cling to this life, with all its memories. The forms of structures also often return to me, the streets, buildings with their old architecture and the colourful times and periods. The more I advance as a painter, the deeper grows my attachment to those memories."

"I am also going to try to find a style as far as colour is concerned. I believe the colours of my pictures take on a new look which defines them—simpler and yet brighter. I always like the colours to harmonise with the elements of my paintings," concluded Bellver.

## Film stars head for Cannes gala



Brad Pitt is expected to promote his latest film, Inglorious Basterds.

A host of celebrities have jetted in to the French Riviera for the gala opening of this year's Cannes Film Festival.

Stars including Brad Pitt, Quentin Tarantino, Penelope Cruz and Johnny Depp are expected to attend while promoting their latest films.

Pixar film Up, about man who ties balloons to his house to get airborne, will make history later as the first animated film to launch the event.

The festival runs until 24 May when the Palme d'Or prize will be announced.

The 20 directors with films in the running for the festival's top prize include four past winners including Tarantino, who returns with Inglorious Basterds, a Dirty Dozen-style World War II saga starring Pitt, Samuel L Jackson and Mike Myers.

Three UK films are also competing for the prestigious prize, including Ken Loach with Looking for Eric, in which former footballer Eric Cantona plays himself as the personal hero of a postman whose life is spinning downhill.

Bright Star - a period drama about poet John Keats - and Fish Tank, a domestic drama starring Michael Fassbender, complete the British contingent in the main competition.

Fassbender who won plaudits for his portrayal of hunger striker Bobby Sands in Hunger last year, also has a role in Tarantino's film.

Out of competition, Terry Gilliam will be premiering The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus, starring the late Heath Ledger in his final screen role, which had to be completed by Johnny Depp, Colin Farrell and Jude Law.

Source: BBC

## Ram Gopal Varma draws flak

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bollywood director Ram Gopal Varma has a knack of courting controversy.

The release of his film "Ram Gopal Varma Ki Aag", stated to be inspired by the 1970s super-hit "Sholay", was preceded by a court battle after which he had to change the title of the film.

Then in November last year, his visit to the Taj Hotel in Mumbai a few days after the landmark building had become one of the targets of a deadly terror attack, touched off a big row and he was accused of trying to cynically exploit the incident and explore the possibility of making a film out of it.

And now as he is ready with his latest film "Rann" (The War), which takes a close look at television journalism, starring Amitabh Bachchan, the Censor Board has refused to clear it on the charge of distorting the

national anthem.

Vijaya Chawak, secretary to the Censor Board said the tune of the national anthem could not be played around with and distorted.

The controversy over "Rann" came to light earlier this week when Varma was in Delhi to promote the film along with its cast Bachchan, actors Paresh Rawal, Shreyas Talpade and Ritesh Deshmukh.

The film deals with the 24-hour news channel journalism and the backroom drama of collecting and disseminating news round the clock and seeking to balance commercial interests and espousal of social causes.

Bachchan plays the role of a news channel head who is also a crusader of journalistic ethics and social cause and Ritesh appears in the role of an idealistic reporter.

Varma said he planned to release "Rann" later this year.



## Drama serial Batasher Ghar on ATN Bangla

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drama Serial "Batasher Ghar" will be aired tonight on ATN Bangla at 8pm. Written by Mujtaba Ahmed Murshed and jointly directed by Mijanur Rahman Labu and Abeer Khan, this is the third episode of the serial.

The serial centres on three elderly people, Taleb, Imran and Jamil. All the three men are in conflict with their families as their mindsets are completely different from their respective family members.

Take for instance, Taleb, who is not prepared to sacrifice worldly pleasures merely because he is old. However, his wife is completely immersed in religion.

Then there is the lonely Imran who seeks out the company of the neighbourhood children. However, the children are completely disinterested in the old man.

Meanwhile, Jamil's son blames him for his mother's death. The trio decide to break free of their oppressive environments and begin new lives by donning the disguise of young men. The story begins to unfold...



Tauquir Ahmed and Richi Solaiman in the drama serial.

## Dhoom Ta..Na.. Cova Junior Star on Ekushey TV tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Children's talent hunt show, "Dhoom Ta..Na.. Cova Junior Star", will be aired tonight on Ekushey TV. With this episode of the dance show, the programme is set to embark on the 'Individual Round,' where each competitor will perform solo. Tonight, the students of YWC and Tridhara School will perform. Popular film star Moushumi gives her feedback on the performance of the participants.

Dance director, Imdadul Haque Khokon, Dolly Iqbal, Nayan and film actress Natun will also be present as judges. Child artistes Rupmoni and Antor host the show.



Competitors will perform solo on tonight's episode.

## Three-day street theatre festival begins in Tangail



A scene from "Panta Akalee" staged on the inaugural day.

PHOTO: STAR

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

A three-day street theatre festival began in Tangail on Tuesday with the theme 'Make theatre a tool to change society'.

Natya Forum, an umbrella organisation of theatre groups in Tangail, arranged the festival and staged 10 popular plays at Tangail Shaheed Minar premises in observance of the Bengali New Year 1416.

Theatre personality Mannan Hira, also president of Street Theatre Parishad, inaugurated the festival and spoke at the event. Natya Forum president Faruque Qureshi presided over the discussion.

Among others, Tangail Deputy Commissioner Maksudur Rahman Patwari; Superintendent of Police Mizanur Rahman; Tangail district Awami League President Shamsur Rahman Khan Shajahan; Coronation

Dramatic Club president and general secretary Abdur Rahman Montu and Abdur Rahman Raku; joint secretary of Street Theatre Parishad Ahmed Gias and Natya Forum general secretary Zakir Hossain addressed the gathering. Talha-al-Mahmud of Natyam moderated the discussion.

On the inaugural day, artistes of the local theatre groups staged four plays: "Panta Akalee" of Sanket Natyadal, "Gendu Chora" of Swadesh Natyadal and "Renura" and "Bedeni" of Natyam.

On the second day, three plays: "Kolib Shandhya" of Ananda Natyadal, "Manusher Achhar" of Nagar Natyadal and "Jago Bangali" of Bhumihin Natyadal were staged.

Three more plays "Asar" of Sanket Natyadal, "Kalshi Babur Bidesh Gaman" of Swadesh Natyadal and "Sonar Koinya" of Nagar Natyadal - will be staged on the concluding day of the festival.