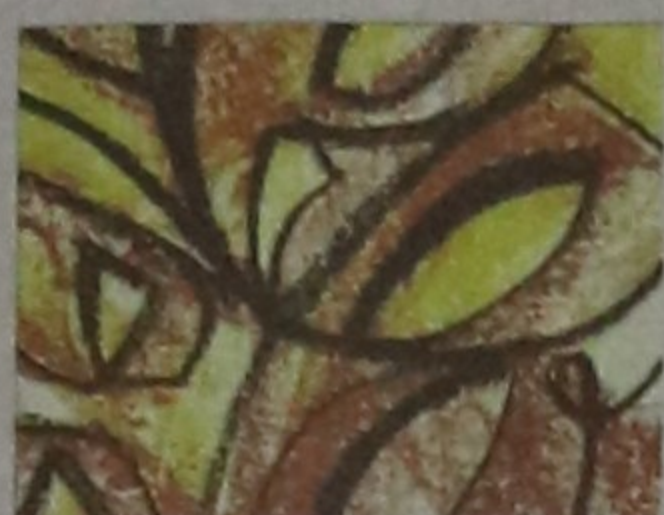


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Tagore Birth Anniversary Celebration

Organiser: Jatio Rabindra Sangeet Sammlon Parishad and Bengal Foundation
Venue: Bengal Shipalaya, Dhanmondi
Date and time: May 21 at 6:30pm



Films on Spanish Civil War

Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society & Goethe-Institut
Venue: Goethe-Institut, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi
Date: May 17-21
Time: 3pm onwards



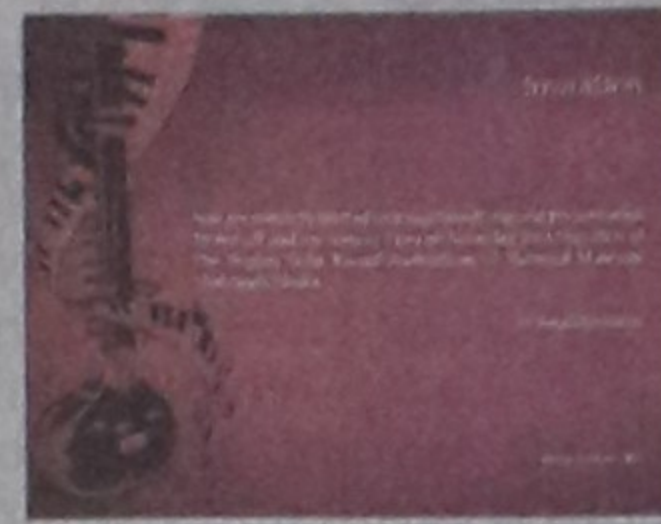
Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Ochin Pakhi
Artist: Afrozaa Jamil
Venue: Radius Centre, Bay's Galleria (5th Floor), 57, Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1
Date: May 15-31
Time: 11am-11pm (Fridays 3-11pm)



Classical Music

Artists: Mohiuddin Babar and his sons
Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum
Date: May 23
Time: 7pm



In search of the omnipresent mythical bird

Afrozaa Jamil's solo exhibition "Ochin Pakhi"



TAKIR HOSSAIN

Vivacious colours, techniques and uneven strokes are the ingredients that beautiful paintings are made of and Afrozaa Jamil, a promising artist who has been working on rural themes for over two decades, is adept in all three aspects. A true patriot, Afrozaa delves deep into rural subjects and her artworks touch the various aspects of pastoral life.

"Ochin Pakhi," the artist's fifth solo exhibition, is now on at Radius Centre, Bay's Galleria in Gulshan. Afrozaa made a move from Oriental to Realistic art in her early days. She wanted to explore a realm unfa-

miliar to her. As a student of the Oriental Department, Institute of Fine Arts (now Faculty of Fine Arts), Dhaka University, she attained skills in portraying the bond between humans and nature. Though she changed her field of study, she tries to maintain a correlation between her current working style and Oriental art.

The painter tries to articulate her feelings through imaginative compositions and colours. Her keenness on everything rural originates from her thirst for unadulterated life. Afrozaa's paintings, her colours appear natural. To her, colour is a representative of emotions, and her range remains unchanged through-



out her repertoire. She believes that colours reach out directly to the soul and are able to invoke deep emotions.

Afrozaa's works highlight the quintessential Bengali village belle and their different moods. With her sweeping brush strokes and bold colours, the canvas is transformed and the artist's visions come to life. Themes mingle with texture, colours and tones to conjure a vision of life.

Birds have been placed in the limelight by the artist at her ongoing exhibition. These ubiquitous, yet mystical creatures have been associated with a range of themes. Rural women with birds, birds devouring corpses (a reference to the atrocities during the Liberation War), peasant girls husking rice and eager birds waiting for some grains are some of the themes. Afrozaa seems to want to create a personal hallmark involving birds.

The exhibition ends on May 31.



Afrozaa seems to want to create a personal hallmark involving birds.

Rough times for flute-makers in the north



PHOTO: STAR

Narayan Chandra Roy (right) and his son are among flute-makers in the northern region, up against tough times.

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Flute-makers in the northern districts including Dinajpur, Rangpur and Nilphamari are facing harsh times, as the demand for their products has waned. There has been no government initiative to create national and international market for their craft, according to the flute-makers and traders.

Lack of bamboo, required for making the musical instrument, has also added to the crisis. "There have been isolated efforts by the government to improve the trade and products," said Narayan Chandra Roy, a flute-maker from Taraganj, Rangpur sadar upazila, who was vending his products here in Dinajpur recently.

He added that about ten year back, his products were exported to India and England but now even the number of domestic buyers has declined. Marketing continues to be a big challenge for flutes.

A cultural activist of Dinajpur also suggested

that the government should promote and encourage small businesses and handicrafts by exporting the products to other countries.

Harpal Biswas, a local trader, sells around 10/15 flutes per day at present, but claims to have sold 100/150 ten years back.

"I've been in this trade forever. My father used to make flutes too. Currently, buyers of our products are mostly local musicians and children, and that doesn't cut it," he added.

Many of the families who had been flute-makers for generations, have moved on to other professions. The number of craftsmen has been declining since the mid '80. Over the last three decades, the number of these families in the region has decreased from 150 to 20. Many have migrated to India as well.

Talking to this correspondent recently, the flute-makers disappointedly said that the urban populace is now opting for electronic musical instruments; as a result, traditional handmade instruments like flutes are losing market.

Alternative band 'Shironamhin' on Desh TV tonight



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Popular alternative rock band Shironamhin will be featured on tonight's "Call-er Gaan." The live musical show on Desh TV starts at 11:45pm. Produced by Alamgir Hossain and hosted by Alif Alauddin, the programme features popular and upcoming bands.

Viewers can communicate and talk to the artistes over the phone. They can also request for their favourite songs through text messages.

Shironamhin has released three studio albums. The latest, "Bondho Janala," which was released a couple of months ago, is a hit among young music aficionados. The album features songs including "Bondho Janala," "Bangladesh," "Bus Stoppage" and "Shurjo."

Prakash Mehra, filmmaker of the '70s, passes away

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Renowned Indian film producer-director Prakash Mehra, who introduced Amitabh Bachchan to superstardom in 1973, is no more.

Mehra, 69, died last Sunday after losing his battle against pneumonia and multiple organ failure, leaving behind a legacy of introducing violence in Hindi films known until then for their themes of family saga and romance.

A leading filmmaker of the '70s and '80s, Mehra, born in Bijoor in Uttar Pradesh in 1939, began his Bollywood career as a production controller in late 1950s before venturing into filmmaking in 1968 with Shashi Kapoor-starrer "Haseena Man Jayegi".

However, it was his first home production "Zanjeer" in 1973 that pushed him into the big league of successful Bollywood filmmakers. Starring Amitabh Bachchan in the role of an honest police officer up against underworld



gangs, the film turned out to be a super-hit, making an overnight star of the actor and earning him the "angry young man" tag.

"Zanjeer", which also starred Pran and contained some hit songs like "Yaari hai imaan mera yaar meri zindagi" sung by the legendary Manna Dey, started off a long association between Amitabh Bachchan and Mehra who drafted the actor for a slew of movies like "Hera Pheri" (1976), "Muqaddar Ka Sikandar" (1978), "Lawaris" (1981), "Namak Halal" (1982) and "Sharabi" (1982). The last film of the duo was "Jaadugar" in 1989, which failed to hit the box office.

Bachchan paid tribute to Mehra by saying that the producer-director was an all-rounder in his craft. He said the commercial success of films never made Mehra lose respect for people he had worked with.



PHOTO: BANGLARCHOKH.COM

Theatre troupe Mahakal Natya Sampraday staged its production "Shonai Koinyar Pala" at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on May 18. Adapted from the lyrical ballad 'Devan Bhabna' from the "Mymensingh Geetika," the play is directed by Humayun Kabir Himu.

Mariah Carey at Cannes

The 62nd Cannes Film Festival is seeing many stars as usual. One of them is pop singer Mariah Carey, who was there for a screening of her new movie "Precious," in which she plays a social worker.

It is only a small role she has in the film, but Mariah was there with fellow stars Paula Patton, Lenny Kravitz, Gabby Sidibe and director of the film Lee Daniels. According to sources, Mariah was kept waiting after the acclaimed filmmaker Martin Scorsese took longer than expected to introduce his new movie.

Mariah and fellow stars waited patiently whilst Martin Scorsese overran his slot, promoting his upcoming film "The Red Shoes."

Source: Internet



Mariah Carey and Lenny Kravitz at the Cannes.

Star Trek screened in space

AP, Los Angeles

"Star Trek" has been beamed aboard the International Space Station.

Paramount Pictures said they transferred director J.J. Abrams' sci-fi franchise reboot to NASA's Mission Control in Houston. The movie

was uplinked to the space station last Thursday. NASA astronaut Michael Barratt watched the film on a laptop Friday inside the Unity module.

The 50-year-old astronaut said he remembered "watching the original 'Star Trek' series and, like many of my NASA co-workers, was inspired by the idea of people from all nations coming together to explore space."

