

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Photography Exhibition

Title: Survivors
Artist: GMB Akash
Organiser: Alliance Francaise of Dhaka
Venue: Alliance Francaise of Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: August 14-27

Discussion

Organiser: Bangladesh Film Archive Alumni Association
Venue: Auditorium, Bangladesh Film Archive, Shahbagh
Date: August 17
Time: 5pm

Shamsul Huda Painting award

Organiser: Shamsul Huda Painting award governing body
Venue: British Council Auditorium, Dhaka
Date: August 12-18
Time: 10 am-6pm

CD Launch

Title: Tabo Mukkhani
Artist: Rebeka Sultana
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: August 18
Time: 6pm

Syed Shamsul Huda Painting Award '09

A collection of noteworthy paintings at British Council

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The Syed Shamsul Huda Painting Award was introduced this year to encourage young painters of Bangladesh. Nawab Syed Shamsul Huda was a member of the Bengal Legislative Council, an accomplished lawyer and a revered politician. He was born in a Zamindar family of Gokarna, Brahmanbaria district, in 1862. He devoted himself to educating disadvantaged Muslims in Bengal. Huda died in 1922.

Syed Javed Maswood, a direct descendant of Huda, has organised an exhibition featuring the entries participating at the competition. The exhibition is now on at the British Council Auditorium. Javed Maswood said, "The Shamsul Huda Painting Award will be conferred each year to an artist (for best landscape). The competition will be judged by a panel of seasoned artists. We, the family of Shamsul Huda, want to encourage and support the community of artists in Bangladesh. I sincerely hope that this prize will motivate emerging artists to develop



their individual styles and realise their unique interpretation of Bangladesh's diverse landscape."

Ariful Islam won the top at the exhibition. The exhibition displays 46 artworks by 36 artists. Participation of paint-

ers who emerged in mid '90s is noticeable at the exhibition. Participants have worked in different mediums with distinct styles. Most of the paintings are themed on nature, panoramic beauty, rural Bengal, the masses and



Artworks by Musrat Reazi (left) and Md. Zillur Rahman.

everyday chores. The styles are realistic, and some are study oriented.

Sumon Baidya, one of the participants, is a promising painter. Though he is now a city dweller, Baidya's childhood memories of the villages have not been erased from his

mind. From time to time, he visits the countryside, exploring himself and his artistic impulses.

Jabed Rashel has used bright colours that created a synchronisation in his works. His works, on display at the exhibition, present mustard

fields, tranquil rivers, boatmen, emerald-green fields, harvesting of jute, paddy, and of course, rainfall.

Hossain Muhammad's "Before Winter" shows a shaded riverbank. The surrounding vista is ornate with green, yellow and purple. Some villagers are noticeable in the work, and the sky is pristine blue.

Abdul Aziz Mabud's "Landscape" depicts harvesting and a shallow river making its way through the village. Yellow, blue, emerald green, white and pink have been predominantly used.

Nazmul Haque Bappy's "Tribal House" shows some huts amidst a serene environment. Some indigenous people are seen busy with their daily chores. Bold red, pale beige, bright yellow and peaceful azure make this piece interesting.

Ratnashwar Sutradhar's "The Mystery of Morning" shows an enigmatic dawn with various phases of nature. The artwork mainly features a stratum of colours and its fascinating aspects.

The exhibition at British Council will continue till August 18.

Bangabandhu's death anniversary Children's art and essay contest in Magura

HOSSAIN SERAI, Magura

To mark the 34th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Magura Shishu Academy organised a painting competition and essay writing contest for children at the auditorium of Sayed Ator Ali Public Library in Magura town last Saturday.

Forty-eight youngsters took part at the painting competition on the theme, 'Liberation War'. Fifty students from different schools, divided into three groups, competed in the essay writing competition.

A discussion was also held at the same venue. Additional Deputy Commissioner (General), Magura, Md. Tarikul Alam was the chief guest while senior Assistant Commissioner ATM Abdullah-Hel-Baki attended as special guest. District children's affairs officer Ahmed-Al-Hossein chaired the event. The chief guest formally handed the prizes among the winners later.



Young students participate in the art competition.

Growing up with music

In conversation with the up and coming Kazi Anan

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Kazi Anan sat in his studio, eagerly observing and studying the different aspects of sounds and rhythms. In his words, he never "stepped into" the world of music; he was "born into" it. Music has been ingrained in him. His earliest memories involve music.

An up and coming composer and musician of considerable calibre, Anan has had superhits like "Meye" and "Amar Desh" recently. "Kolpona," released on Valentine's Day, clinched the number 1 spot for two consecutive weeks on ntv's "Music Jams."

"Amar Desh," Anan's recent album produced by Laser Vision, is an out and out international album. For this album, Anan had worked with Aditya Modi, sound engineer of award-winning soundtracks like "Slumdog Millionaire," "Lord of the Rings" and other international block-



Kazi Anan

busters.

Anan's next album will be released this Eid-ul-Fitr. The talented young musician also has plans to get involved in orchestration. Something

absolutely ingenious about him is that the music he composes -- which is absolutely original -- takes him considerably short time. The "Amar Desh" album only took him 17 days.

In his words, it's as if "the music is in my cells, flowing in my blood."

Anan is comfortable with all kinds of instruments. Good music is made when all the bits and instruments are in their right components. A bit of Latin, some African and other elements can be traced in his compositions.

"My dad, Hablu -- a seasoned percussionist, and a member of the band Renaissance -- is a great inspiration. I like Renaissance's music which is a bit of jazz and blues, something quite rare in Bangladesh."

Anan likes mostly pre-90's music. "There is a certain element about music of that era," he says.

With his vocals and ingenuity in composing, Anan is a musician who is well on his way to achieving great heights. But the artiste says that he is still a "toddler" in the world of music, learning the ropes.

Shahrukh: I don't feel like stepping on American soil any more



Following the uncalled for frisking and detention at the Newark airport in the US, a visibly shattered Khan said that "I have travelled throughout the world for my shooting and also as brand ambassador for all major products but I

have never been treated like this before."

"I do not feel like stepping on American soil any more but I have millions of fans here who would want to see me so I will keep coming," Khan told his fans.

Later in Chicago, where he had gone to take part in the South Asian Carnival on the occasion of India's Independence Day (August 15), Khan said, "I think it is a procedure that needs to be followed. But it is an unfortunate procedure."

Asked whether he would seek an apology for the incident, the actor replied in the negative.

Soon after the incident which sparked angry reactions back home, the actor said that he was detained and questioned at Newark airport after his name matched with some of those on a common checklist. He was let off at the intervention of Indian Consulate officials.

Khan had termed the inci-

dent as "uncalled for," saying that, "I did feel bad. I felt angry. I am glad my family wasn't there. God knows what they would have done to them."

"I was really hassled at the American Airport because of my name being Khan," the actor, who figured in the American Newsweek magazine's list of 50 most powerful people, had said.

Meanwhile, US immigration authorities in New York denied that Khan was detained and questioned for two hours at the Newark airport or that the actor was singled out because of his name or Asian identity.

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