

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: Jai Bangla
 Artist: Shahabuddin
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
 Date: Sep 27-Oct 10
 Time: 12-8pm

Art Exhibition
 Artists: Farzana Ahmed Ummi & Tanny Dey
 Venue: Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU
 Date: October 3-7
 Time: 10am-8pm

PRINT & SCULPTURE

Baul Songs
 Artists: Darbesh Shadon Fakir and his troupe
 Organiser: High Commission of India
 Venue: India Cultural Centre, H35, Rd 24, Gulshan 1
 Date: October 8
 Time: 7pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: Kantha Kahini
 Artist: Fahmida Enam Kakoli
 Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi
 Date: October 1-14
 Time: 10am-12pm & 5pm-8:30pm

Profile

Aminul Islam: A modernist and experimental painter

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Aminul Islam is one of the senior-most and acclaimed painters in our country. Among his contemporaries are Murtaja Baseer, Rashid Chowdhury, Devbas Chakraborty and Abdur Razzaque. He made an immense contribution by introducing modern paintings in Bangladesh. He gradually changed his styles, and established himself as a significant painter in Bangladesh. "Painting, for me, is the best way to knowledge, the best means to participate profoundly in the global life," said Islam.

Aminul Islam embarked on his primary education at Mahuttuli Free Primary School. On the completion of his primary education, he gained admission to Armanitola High School. During this time, he started copying Japanese and Chinese art. He was also copying some Indian painters' works in this period. "I liked cubist and semi-cubist works of Gaganranath Tagore. My parents had no intention of letting me be a painter. During this time, artists were often mired in poverty and many could not get jobs without first writing signboards. My father was depressed when he learnt about my plans."

From the beginning, his



The artist

works have been closely linked with nature and its various mysterious aspects. "I find the greatest pleasure and inspiration from natural designs and patterns, visual and imaginary, representing and expressing the primary forms and units of life," said the artist.

Islam passed his matriculation in 1947. Then he went to Calcutta Art College for admission. While in Calcutta

(now Kolkata), he met Zainul Abedin, Qamrul Hassan and Shafiuddin Ahmed. "They suggested that I should not seek admission in Calcutta Art College as an art college was to be established in 'Dacca' (Dhaka) shortly. After a few days, I returned to Dacca with Zainul Abedin. However, since there was no sign of any art college being opened, I got admitted at Dacca College. Noted author

Alauddin Al Azad, scientist Abdullah Al Muti Sharfuddin, Hasan Hafizur Rahman, educationist Abdul Quayyum and others were my contemporaries. I got involved with a left leaning party. We started running a cultural and social forum called 'Progoti Lekhok Shilpi Samiti'. The forum published little magazines, journals and poetry books. The forum mainly enabled us to build intimate links with each other," stated Islam.

Later, the Government Institute of Art was established in 1948. Hamidur Rahman, Imdad Hossain, Ismail, Abdul Kader and others were admitted along with Aminul at the institute -- the first batch to do so.

After completing his BFA, Aminul went to Florence to pursue higher studies in art. His three years there proved very formative, as he found answers to many of the questions he had earlier about art and aesthetics. "I have grown primarily as a non-figurative painter since the early '60s and have renewed my efforts to experiment in different mediums and art forms. Gradually I have become increasingly aware of the different qualities of line produced by pen, pencil, brush, bamboo, discarded brush and other objects. They produce many qualities of line to give my drawing a distinctive appearance.

"I was guided by Professor Conti. Sculptor Novera and Hamidur Rahman visited me in Italy. We spent a lot of time together and earned varied experiences through the years."

Several solo exhibitions of Islam's works were held in Rome and Florence. After coming to Dacca in 1956, his first solo exhibition was held at the Press Club. Other exhibitions were held in 1961 (Bangla Academy) and 1963 (Art College). The exhibited works were done in Florence. "My colleagues were eagerly waiting for the exhibition, which saw the emergence of semi-abstract and abstract works," he said.

"Painters are of two kinds -- one group works with emotions and the other works with intelligence. My position is in the middle. Both aspects are inherent in me," asserted Islam.

After moving back to Dacca, Aminul's style underwent a fundamental change. Lines, colours and space became the prime focus in his paintings. He is also a mural painter. He did many mural works in different parts of the country. Throughout his chequered career, he frequently returned to the nature.

Aminul Islam's latest solo exhibition will begin in November at Gallery Chittrak.



Works by Aminul Islam



Archie's destiny, as shaped by Robert Frost

That perennially teenage rethead from Riverdale made headlines around the world when word leaked, back in May, that he would propose to his longtime love interest,

Veronica Lodge, in issue No. 600 of the comic that bears his name. But that issue, published in August, was only Part 1 of a six-part story. Although Archie did marry Veronica,

things will take a turn in November, when Archie proposes to the lady in waiting, Betty Cooper. That's just the latest twist in the romantic triangle that has thrusted this nearly 70-year-old character, and his parent company, into the media spotlight.

Archie, who first appeared in December 1941, has followed the course of other comic-book characters: spinoff titles, a radio programme, a newspaper strip and a Saturday morning cartoon series. But as comic books became graphic novels, Archie was talked about less and less. In 2007 the publishers of Archie Comic Publications introduced what they called a "New Look" for the Archie gang, which was less cartoony, but that experiment will end this year.

The wedding, which began as a way to celebrate the 600th issue, has become a game changer for the company. "What the story has done is to introduce Archie on a global level," said Jon Goldwater, co-chief executive of Archie Comic Publications.

The wedding story was written by Michael E. Uslan and illustrated by Stan

Goldberg, a longtime "Archie" artist. The first half was called "Archie Marries Veronica," but issue No. 603, on sale next month, is called "Archie Marries Betty." The end of bachelorhood began in issue No. 600, in which Archie found himself on a road named Memory Lane, which he has often travelled. This time he walked a different direction and encountered a fork in the road. He chose the left path, which allowed him to see his future with Veronica and their twins, and himself working for her tycoon father.

At the end of the October issue, No. 602, Archie goes for an evening stroll and encounters the fork again. In the November issue Archie will find himself back in Riverdale High, this time envisioning a future with Betty as his wife. (A set of twins factors into this destiny as well.)

This alternative future will be a relief to the fans who reacted negatively to the marriage to Veronica. "The polls that I've seen ran about 80/20, Betty over Veronica, with Jughead continually coming in a strong third," said Uslan, a comic-book historian, a longtime "Archie" fan

and a producer of the big-screen "Batman" films. Uslan said his inspiration for the story included a film ("Sliding Doors"), a poem (Robert Frost's "Road Not Taken") and a song ("Both Sides, Now").

Until the wedding story began to unfold, the core readers of "Archie" were female, between the ages of 7 and 17, sources said. But the new story line has multigenerational appeal, with feedback from readers indicating that the comic had been shared among parents and children.

The response in India was especially enthusiastic, and so "Archie" will now be printed in five languages there. Archie Comic Publications plans to open its first international office in New Delhi next year and is also preparing some exclusive comics for that market that will include Indian characters.

Archie and his gang may even make their way into feature films or new animated series. The publisher recently signed with Creative Artists Agency to represent the gang in Hollywood.

Source: The New York Times

The key to success

Rtv and Globe Soft Drinks Ltd launch a musical talent hunt



(From left): Feroz Alam, Jashim Uddin, Morshed Alam, Md. Harunur Rashid and M. Hamid at the event.

MAINUL HASSAN

Rtv in association with Globe Soft Drinks Ltd have launched a musical talent hunt titled "Black Horse Rtv Golden Key -- Ebar Tomra Gao". The show aims at promoting upcoming and talented singers.

The show was formally launched yesterday at a city hotel. Md. Harunur Rashid, chairman and managing director, Globe Soft Drinks Ltd; Morshed Alam, chairman and managing director, Rtv and M. Hamid, chief executive officer, Rtv, among others, attended the programme.

Speaking on the talent hunt, M. Hamid said, "The show aims at discovering talented singers and promoting them."

A total of 30 singers have been selected for the contest. As part of the selection process, which started in June, audio albums featuring upcoming singers were collected from the

market. The singers were evaluated by renowned music director Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul, singers Samina Chowdhury and Bappa Majumder, and musician Shawkat Ali Emon. They will continue being the judges on the show.

"There are many gifted singers in our country but due to lack of exposure they are not getting anywhere. Through this show, we hope to provide these singers with a platform and help them take their careers forward," said M. Hamid.

Judges Bappa Majumder and Samina Chowdhury were also present at the launching ceremony.

The winner of the contest will be awarded a golden key to a brand new car.

"Black Horse Rtv Golden Key -- Ebar Tomra Gao" will go on air from October 9. The programme will be aired on Rtv every Tuesday and Friday at 9:20 pm.

A bevy of talent

Rajshahi auditions of Lux Channel i Super Star 2009

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The regional audition of "Lux Channel i Super Star 2009" was held at a city community centre in Rajshahi last Monday.

Drawn by the dream of becoming superstars, hundreds of girls from the eight districts of Rajshahi division took part in the daylong selection process.

In the evening, 14 girls were awarded with 'Yes' cards for participating in the next round of the competition.

Tazin Ahmed, Tarin, Shihab Shaheen and Shamim Ahmed were judges of the selection process.

The selected participants are -- Ruma Parvin

of Pabna Edward College; Umme Hafsa Layla of Natore; Tamanna Afreen Bipasha and Shamim Ara Rahman Sonia of Rajshahi University; Muksita Khanam Shanta of Asian University; Alif Almas Arju of Rajshahi College; Salma Sultana of Natore Rani Bhawani Girls' College; Farhara Jahan and Sharmin Sultana of Rajshahi and Iffat Ara Tania of Rajshahi Southern University.

The participants were from Rajshahi, Natore, Naogaon, Chapainawabganj, Pabna, Sirajganj, Bogra and Jaipurhat districts.

The huge turnout of girls at the competition was heartening, said the organisers.

Lux in association with Channel i first launched the talent hunt in 2005.



Rajshahi contestants who received 'Yes' cards.

The joys of travel

Rexona Destination Unlimited on ATN Bangla

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Travel show "Rexona Destination Unlimited" will be aired tonight on ATN Bangla at 8pm. Hosted by Maliha, each episode of the show features a popular tourist destination and in-depth information on it. Tonight's episode will focus on the colourful heritage and scenic beauty of Thailand.

The show is aired every Wednesday.



Tonight's episode features popular tourist attractions in Thailand.



Robert Frost's "Road Not Taken" was one inspiration for the story of Archie's future love life.