

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 18
Time: 12-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Kantha Kahini
Artist: Fahamida Enam Kakoli
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 28, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi
Date: October 1-14
Time: 10am-12pm & 5pm-8:30pm



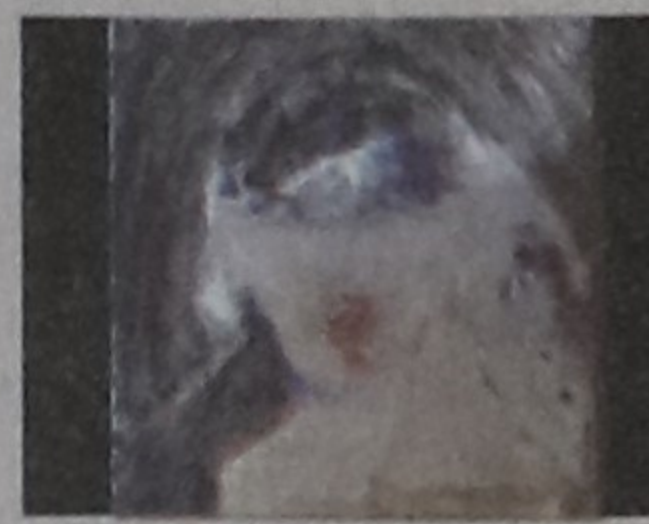
Group Art Exhibition

Title: Shells and Souls
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: October 9-15
Time: 3-9pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Shudurer Mita
Artist: Mustaque Ahmed
Venue: Gallery Chittrak, H 21, Rd 4, Dhanmondi
Date: October 23-November 5
Time: 10am-8pm



Exhibition

Shells, souls...and in between



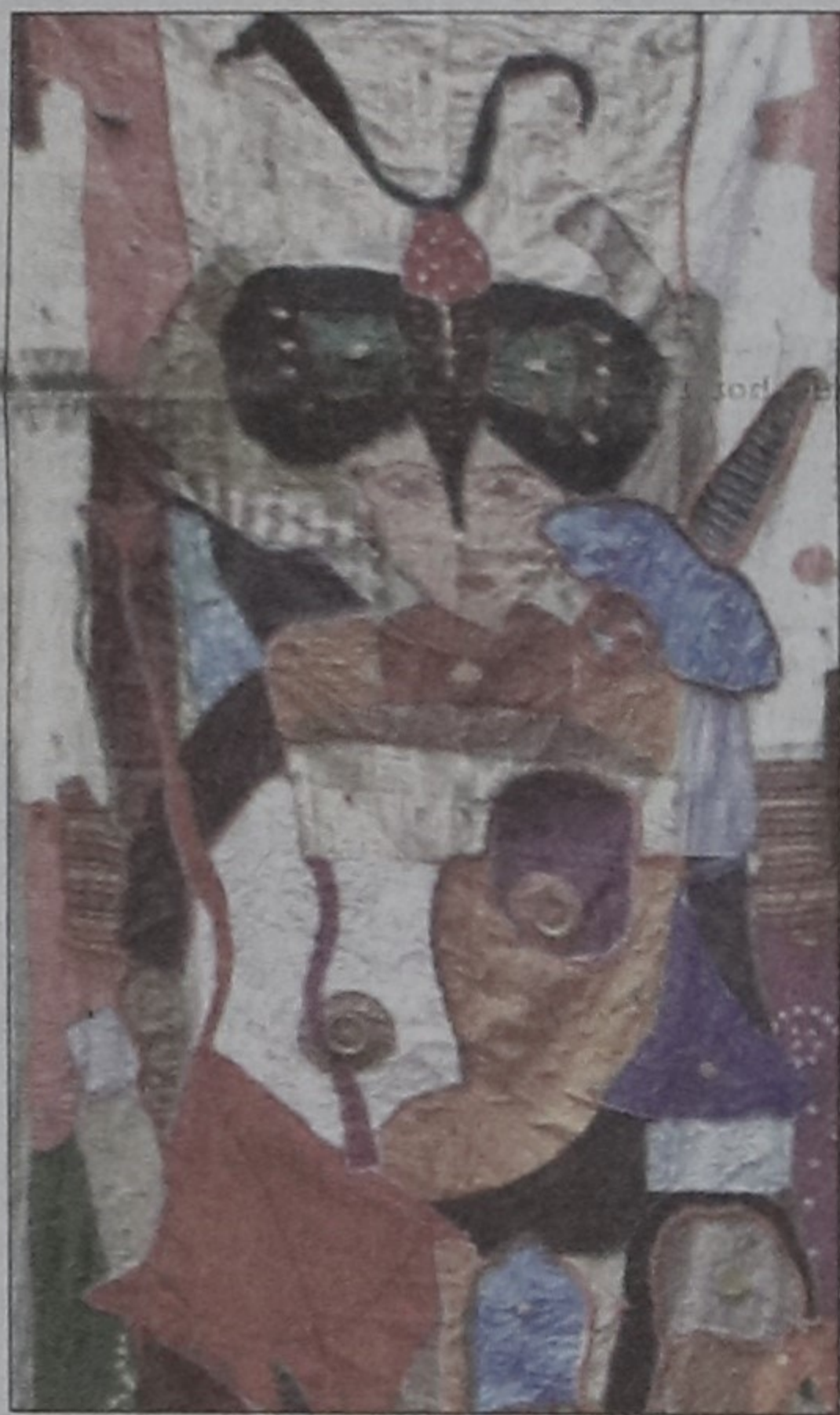
Clockwise (from top-left) artworks by Golam Faruque Sarkar, Kazi Mahboob Hassan, Asma Sultana Mita and Shamim Reza

TAKIR HOSSAIN

A group exhibition titled "Shells and Souls," featuring works of four artists -- Asma Sultana Mita, Golam Faruque Sarkar, Shamim Reza and Kazi Mahboob Hassan -- is on at Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi. The works on display have been done in varied mediums, featuring a range of techniques and styles.

Asma Sultana Mita lives and works in the UK. Her works are closely related to nature and its various aspects. Colours and forms are significant features in her works. Mita's works have a watery appearance and are dominated by most of the shades available in nature. Her works give the viewer a taste of poetry and romanticism. Mita works in mixed media.

Kazi Mahboob Hassan is an emerging painter whose works delve deep into human figures and moods. His paintings are done in graphite, pen and ink on paper. Eyes and movements are recurring themes in his works, which are intimately connected to agony and bliss. The works are line based. Hassan is seemingly inspired by noted Indian artist Jogen Chowdhury. The young



artist's sketches are powerful -- displaying profound serenity. The graphite sketches are particularly animated and thought provoking. Hassan's intimate study of people allows him to get to the core of his themes. He wants to explore human emotions and inner visions. The paintings seem polished and complicated. Hassan now lives and works in Canada.

Golam Faruque Sarkar's works highlight deforestation. The artist feels that the country has been gradually losing its greenery and natural beauty, thanks to deforestation. He is concerned about the ills of unplanned urbanisation. A large number of trees are being wiped out everyday. Yellow, red and orange are dominating colours in his works. Fallen trees and dry leaves are recurring subjects in his paintings.

Shamim Reza's previous works highlighted human figures, movements and moods. He has gradually moved to different mediums. Clothes, beads, woodchips, fibres and various other materials have been used in his works. His works appear decorative. Reza produces bags, cushions, wall hangings and other items.

The exhibition ends on October 15.

Edgar Allan Poe finally gets proper funeral

AP, Baltimore

For Edgar Allan Poe, 2009 has been a better year than 1849. After dozens of events in several cities to mark the 200th anniversary of his birth, he got the grand funeral that a writer of his stature should have received when he died.

One hundred sixty years ago, the beleaguered, impoverished Poe was found, delirious and in distress outside a Baltimore tavern. He was never coherent enough to explain what had befallen him since leaving Richmond, Virginia, a week earlier. He spent four days in a hospital before he died at age 40.

Poe's cousin, Neilson Poe, never announced his death publicly. Fewer than 10 people attended the hasty funeral for one of the 19th century's greatest writers. And the injustices piled on. Poe's tombstone was destroyed before it could be installed, when a train derailed and crashed into a stonemason's yard. Rufus Griswold, a Poe enemy, published a libellous obituary that damaged Poe's reputation for decades.

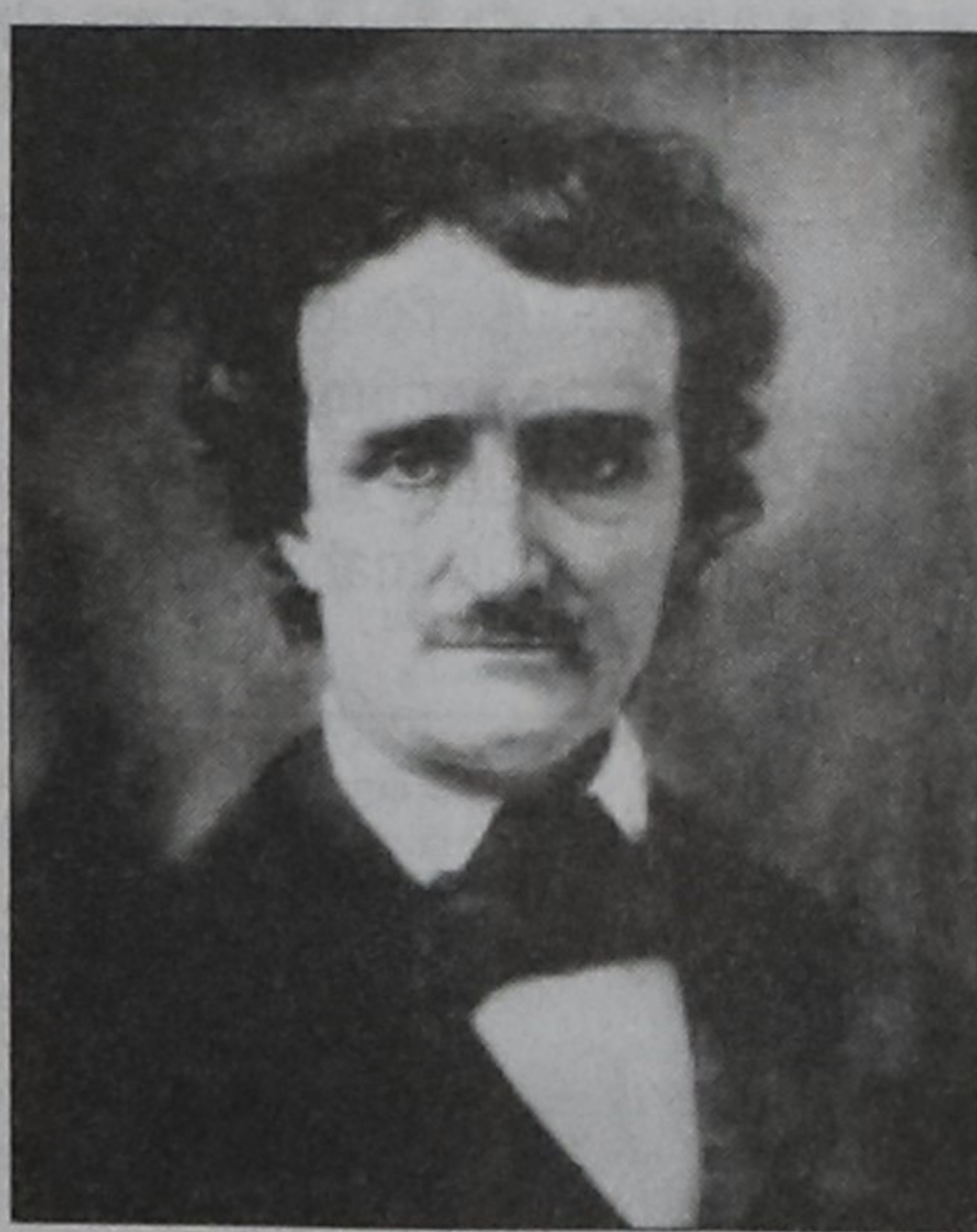
But last Sunday, Poe's funeral got an elaborate do-over, with two services. Actors portraying Poe's contemporaries and other long-dead writers and artists paid their respects, reading eulogies adapted from their writings about Poe.

"We are following the proper etiquette for funerals. We want to make it as realistic as possible," said Jeff Jerome, curator of the Poe House and Museum.

Advance tickets were sold out, although Jerome did make some seats available at the door to ensure packed houses. Fans travelled from as far away as Vietnam.

The funeral was arguably the splashiest of a year's worth of events honouring the 200th anniversary of Poe's birth. Along with Baltimore -- where he spent some of his leanest years in the mid-1830s -- Poe lived in or has strong connections to Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Richmond.

With the funeral angle covered, the Edgar Allan Poe Museum in Richmond staged a re-enactment last weekend of his death. Those with a more academic interest in Poe attended the Poe Studies Association's annual conference from Thursday



Edgar Allan Poe, credited with inventing the genre of detective fiction, enjoyed a death far more Gothic and gloomy than any of his stories.

through Sunday in Philadelphia.

Visitors in Baltimore for the funeral could also enjoy a new exhibit at the Baltimore Museum of Art, "Edgar Allan Poe: A Baltimore Icon," which includes chilling illustrations to "The Raven" by Edouard Manet.

Jerome said he's gotten calls from people who thought he was going to exhume Poe's remains and rebury them.

"When they dug up Poe's body in 1875 to move it, it was mostly skeletal remains," Jerome said. "I've seen remains of people who've been in the ground since that time period, and there's hardly anything left."

Instead, Jerome commissioned local special-effects artist Eric Supensky to create an eerily lifelike -- or deathlike -- mock-up of Poe's corpse.

"I got chills," Jerome said upon seeing the body for the first time. "This is going to freak people out."



Jeff Jerome, curator of the Poe House and Museum looks over a replica of the body of Edgar Allan Poe, in Baltimore.

Theatre festival in Old Dhaka from October 16

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To reach a greater audience as well as to generate interest in theatre activities in the Old Dhaka area, a fortnight-long theatre festival will be held at the Zahir Raihan Cultural Centre in Sutrapur, Old Dhaka. The festival will begin from October 16. Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF), in association with Dhaka City Corporation, is arranging the festival. Sixteen theatre troupes will stage their productions throughout the festival.

"Nowadays we find that theatre activities are restrained within certain areas of the city. Through this festival, we are expecting to communicate to a greater population of the city," said Liaquat Ali Lucky, chairman, BGTF.

Lucky also hopes that such events will be held more often at the venue.

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad is expected to inaugurate the event. Among



The fortnight-long event will be held at Zahir Raihan Cultural Centre in Sutrapur, Old Dhaka.

others, Sadek Hossain Khoka, mayor, Dhaka City Corporation will be present as guest.

The festival will kick off with the staging of Aranyak Natyadal's production "Ebong Bidasagar" on October 16. Other plays to be staged at the festival are "Kanjus" (Loko Natyadal, Siddheswari), "Shikhandi Kotha" (Mahakal Natya Shampradaya), "Shonai Madhob" (Loko Natyadal, Banani), "Dalimkumar" (Naty Kendra), "Bou Basanti" (Udichi), "Court Martial" (Theatre Art Unit), "Bhoddornok" (Naty Chakra), "Kathal Bagan" (Nagorik Natya Sampradaya), "Loko Nayak" (Pranganey Mor), "Jalodash" (Dhaka Padatik), "Dhaboman" (Dhaka Theatre), "Circus Circus" (Prachyanat), "Rupobati" (Shubachan Natya Sangsad), "Meraj Fakir-er Ma" (Theatre, Bailey Road) and "Juddho Juddho" (Theatre, Topkhana).



Aranyak Natyadal's "Ebong Bidasagar" will be staged on the first day of the theatre festival.

"Bayannor Michhiley" screened at Bangla Academy

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Actor-director Rokeya Prachy's documentary on the life of Language Movement martyr Abul Barkat, "Bayannor Michhiley," was screened at the seminar room of Bangla Academy on October 11. Renowned personalities attended the screening.

A brief discussion was held prior to the screening, where Prachy shared her experiences. Professor Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general, Bangla Academy presided over the session.

The 52-minute documentary features the early life of Barkat as well as interviews of noted personalities. Abul Barkat was born in Murshidabad, West Bengal on June 16, 1927. After completing his higher secondary education from a local college he moved to Dhaka.

On February 21, 1952, he embraced martyrdom while taking part in a demonstration demanding to have Bangla as the state language of the then East Pakistan. He was a Masters student at that time.



The documentary features the early life of Language Movement martyr Abul Barkat.

Shaheed Barkat, is the producer of the film.

After the screening, a question-answer session was held. The director of the film along with Bangla Academy deputy director Jalal Uddin Ahmed and others took part in the session.

Prachy thoroughly researched for the documentary. M.R.A. Taha, a relative of

Filmmaker Mike Nichols to receive AFI lifetime honour

Director Mike Nichols has been chosen to receive the 38th American Film Institute's life-achievement award.

Nichols, whose films include "The Graduate," "Working Girl," "Silkwood" and "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" will receive the AFI honour at a ceremony next summer.

The 77-year-old Nichols joins past AFI award recipients such as "Virginia Woolf"



star Elizabeth Taylor, "Silkwood" star Meryl Streep and "Graduate" star Dustin Hoffman.

Nichols' most recent film was 2007's "Charlie Wilson's War," starring Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts. He also is a Tony Award-winning stage director and made the Emmy-winning miniseries "Angels in America."

Source: Internet