

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Art Exhibition

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



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Ballads and Paintings
Artist: Abdus Shakoor Shah
Venue: Gallery Cosmos, Malibagh
Date: October 24-
November 7
Time: 11am-6pm



Painting Exhibition

Title: Faces of Buddha: An Expression of early medieval spirit
Organiser: IUB Art Club
Venue: Art and Aesthetics Gallery, 90 Park Road, Baridhara, Dhaka
Date: October 28-
November 11



Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Mustapha Khalid Palash
Venue: Asiatic Art Gallery, Nimtoli, Ramna
Date: October 23-
November 22
Time: 10am-8pm



A look into contemporary Asian cinema

Film screening at Dhaka University



Vice Chancellor of DU, Professor A.A.M.S. Arefin Siddique, speaks at the event.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A daylong film screening, titled "Contemporary Asian Cinema: Far Eastern Experience," organised by the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Dhaka University (DU) was held yesterday at the Senate Building on campus.

Chief guest of the programme, Professor A.A.M.S. Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor of DU inaugurated the programme in the morning. Professor Shaikh Abdus Salam, acting Dean, Faculty of

Social Sciences, DU was the present as a special guest on the occasion.

In his inaugural speech Professor Siddique said, "In this era of globalisation, films have emerged with a phenomenal impact. Cinema plays a significant role in upholding the national traits. Use of cutting edge technology in filmmaking will bear no fruit, if new perspectives aren't involved."

Dr. Geeti Ara Nasreen, chairperson of the department, presided over the programme.

Later Kim Soyoung's trilogy

was screened at the programme. Soyoung is a professor at the School of Film and Multimedia, Korean National University of Arts. Soyoung's trilogy consists of three films: "Koryu: Southern Women/South Korea", "I'll Be Seeing Her" and "New Woman: Her first Song".

"Koryu: Southern Women/South Korea" addresses specific issues surrounding the female mode of expression and existence in pre-modern and modern Korea. The film also follows the lives of several women to construct a complex portrait

of women's lives as diasporic, or Koryu (temporary living in an alien land).

"I'll Be Seeing Her" is a documentary on women in Korean cinema that deliberately eschews the traditional modes of documentary filmmaking. It manipulates and selectively represents the images of women in the golden age of Korean cinema (1950s-1960s).

"New Women: Her First Song" explores the political, historical and cultural constructions, achievements and contradictions of the "New Woman" phenomena of North

incite an open-ended dialogue across the histories of the 'new women' of Korea, Japan and China.

Earl Jackson, a professor of English Literature, Korean National University of Arts, presented his film, titled "Engaged Reality in Contemporary Japanese Documentaries".

The presentation focused on the works of Hara Kazuo, one of Japan's most controversial documentary directors. These documentaries do not have as a primary goal to simply record phenomena but to discover contradic-



"I'll Be Seeing Her" was one of the documentaries screened at the programme.

East Asia from the 1920-1930s. Taking as its prismatic focus the life and work of the painter and writer Na Haesuk, the film catalyses its own poetics to

tions within actions. And the people featured in the documentaries are not subjects but agents of discovery and self-representation.



PHOTO: NELOY HOSSAIN

"Rarang", one of Aranyak's much acclaimed productions, was staged at National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on October 31. The play features the struggles of Santals -- for their right to land -- against the bigwigs of the society. On October 31 "Rarang" was staged to raise funds for a theatre activist Md. Al Amin who has chronic myeloid leukaemia (blood cancer) and needs immediate medical treatment. At the end of the show, Mamunur Rashid, writer and director of the play, handed over Tk 45,000 received from ticket sales to Al Amin's family on behalf of the troupe.

Kathak dance recital in Sylhet

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

On the occasion of its third founding anniversary, local organisation Nrityashoilee organised a Kathak dance recital at M. Saifur Rahman Auditorium in the city. People made a beeline to see the two-hour dance programme.

Saju Ahmed directed the event while Nilanjana Das Jui conducted the dances.

The performers included Nilanjana Das Jui, Bipul Sharma, Subarna Saha, Drishiti, Gitosri, Tunji, Nipa, Suravi, Puja, Anuradha, Hridita,

Priya, Bandhan, Barsha, Abir, Hasan, Oishi, Suchana, Tanni and others.

Yousuf Khan was on the *sarod*. Moshtaque Ahmed Khan and Bidhan Sinha were the vocalists, while Qutub Uddin was on the flute and Mithu Biswas on the *tabla*.

Sylhet City Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran formally inaugurated the event. Prior to that, a brief discussion was held with Md. Barkat Ullah, Zinat Barkatullah, Saju Ahmed and Sheikh Mehdi Hasan as the speakers and Nrityashoilee advisor Nilanjana Das in the chair.



Dancers of Nrityashoilee perform at the show.

PHOTO: STAR



Students of Fulkuri stage a play.

PHOTO: STAR

Culture as a learning tool

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

A rally was held on the occasion of the 35th founding anniversary of the organisation for children and adolescents, Fulkuri, in Jhenidah. A discussion, prize giving ceremony and cultural programme were also held at Jhenidah Sadar Upazila Auditorium last Friday.

Sheikh Rafikul Islam, additional Deputy Commissioner (general) was the chief guest at the discussion, while Upazila Nirbahi officer (UNO) Md. Habibul Haq Khan; S.M. Mizanur Rahman, assistant chief director of Fulkuri and Mohammad Ayub Hossain, district Children Affairs' official were special guests.

ADC Sheikh Rafikul Islam was the main discussant. Mizanur Rahman and UNO Habibul Haq Khan were the other speakers at the meeting chaired by Md. Abdul Malek, president of Fulkuri Ashar, Jhenidah unit and mayor of Jhenidah Municipality.

ADC Sheikh Rafikul Islam said, "Children are the future of our country. No other extra-curricular activity apart from culture can help in the formation of a child's character."

S.M. Mizanur Rahman pointed out that with proper cultural grounding a child can reach his or her zenith.

Rubel Jamil, a student of Class VI in Dishari Pre-Cadet School, said, "I am really happy with Fulkuri's new initiative. I hope that more such events can be organised."

Indian royalty, Parisian bling

Photo exhibition at Alliance Francaise



(From left) The famed 'Patiala necklace', Sita Devi and her son, A piece of jewellery owned by the Maharani of Baroda and Maharaja Yadavindra Singh.



Devi. The exhibition includes a beautiful photograph of Sita Devi and her son Prince (in 1948). Her name will forever be associated with two exceptional diamonds -- the Star of the South and the English Dresden.

The bib necklace, realised in 1954 on a special order for the Maharaja of Baroda, is set with 13 faceted and cabochon rubies, 31 cabochon emeralds, interspersed with stylised leaf motifs set with 23 circular-cut diamonds. The mounting is yellow gold. This necklace is influenced by the amethyst bib necklace of the Duchess of Windsor.

What were once prized possessions in the pages of history, still continue to captivate the people of the 21st century. Of course, the meanings and forms of embellishment have altered, keeping pace with the changing scene and modernisation, but diamonds, rubies and emeralds still hold a special appeal. In the exhibition, there are numerous photos of such jewellery studded with these shimmering stones.

A painting of Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala wearing his head ornament can be seen in one of the photos. This painting is by Marcel Baschet and dates back to 1927.

"We are delighted to be able to present this exhibition to the public, with the support of the French Embassy in Bangladesh, at a time when the Alliance Francaise celebrates its 50th anniversary in Dhaka," said Jacques Bounin, cultural director of AFD.

The writer is a freelance contributor.

NUSRAT JAHAN PRITOM

Photographs from the collections of three prestigious French jewellers -- Cartier, Mauboussin and Van Cleef & Arpels -- have finally made their way to Dhaka. The exhibition, which began on October 23 at the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka (AFD), runs till November 5.

Myriam Bassinet, former Director of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, conceived the idea of making a compilation of photographs that marked an era of competition among three major institutions for designing sets of Indian style as well as art deco for royalty. It also shows the influence of the subcontinent on the jewellery

that these prestigious houses have created for Western customers in Europe and the USA.

Sylvie Raulet, a recognised art historian who specialises in jewellery, is the curator of the exhibition. Prior to this, the collection was displayed in India, Pakistan and China.

There is a note attached to every photograph, informing the viewers about the history behind that particular piece of jewellery and information on the nobility that owned it.

Throughout history, jewels have had a certain meaning and appeal to the beholder. During the time of the Mughals, jewels epitomised power, glory and refined taste.

Perhaps the most popular and well-known image at the exhibition is that of Maharaja Yadavindra Singh of Patiala, wearing the necklace created (1928) for his father Sir Bhupindra Singh. The piece of jewellery, known the world over as the 'Patiala necklace', disappeared and resurfaced in London in 1998 with many of its stones missing. The necklace is famous for its unmatched brilliance and remarkable design. With five rows of diamond encrusted platinum chains, it had 2,930 diamonds embedded in it, including the world's seventh largest DeBeers diamond.

Some royalties became renowned only because of their love of precious gems. An example is the Maharani of Baroda, Sita