

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Drawing Exhibition

Title: The Surge of Emotion
Artist: Shahabuddin
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, F/40-41, North Super Market, 2nd Circle, Gulshan
Date: January 4-19
Time: 10am-8pm



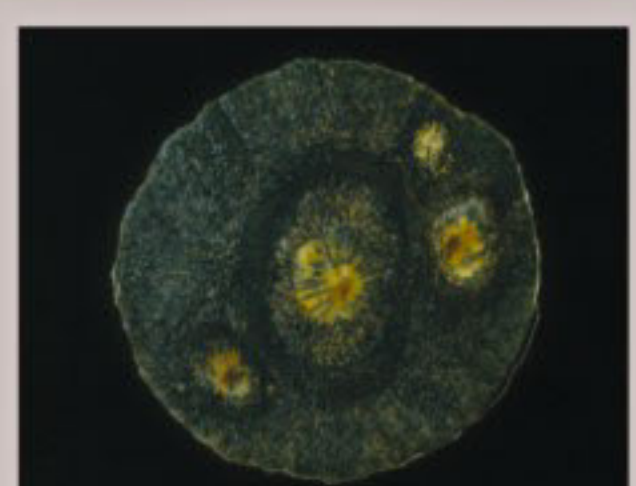
4th Int'l Documentary Festival

Organiser: Liberation War Museum
Venue: Liberation War Museum, Shegunbagicha
Date: January 7-13
Time: 3pm onwards



Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Image
Artist: Mohammad Fokhrul Islam
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: January 4-15
Time: 9am-12pm & 5-8pm



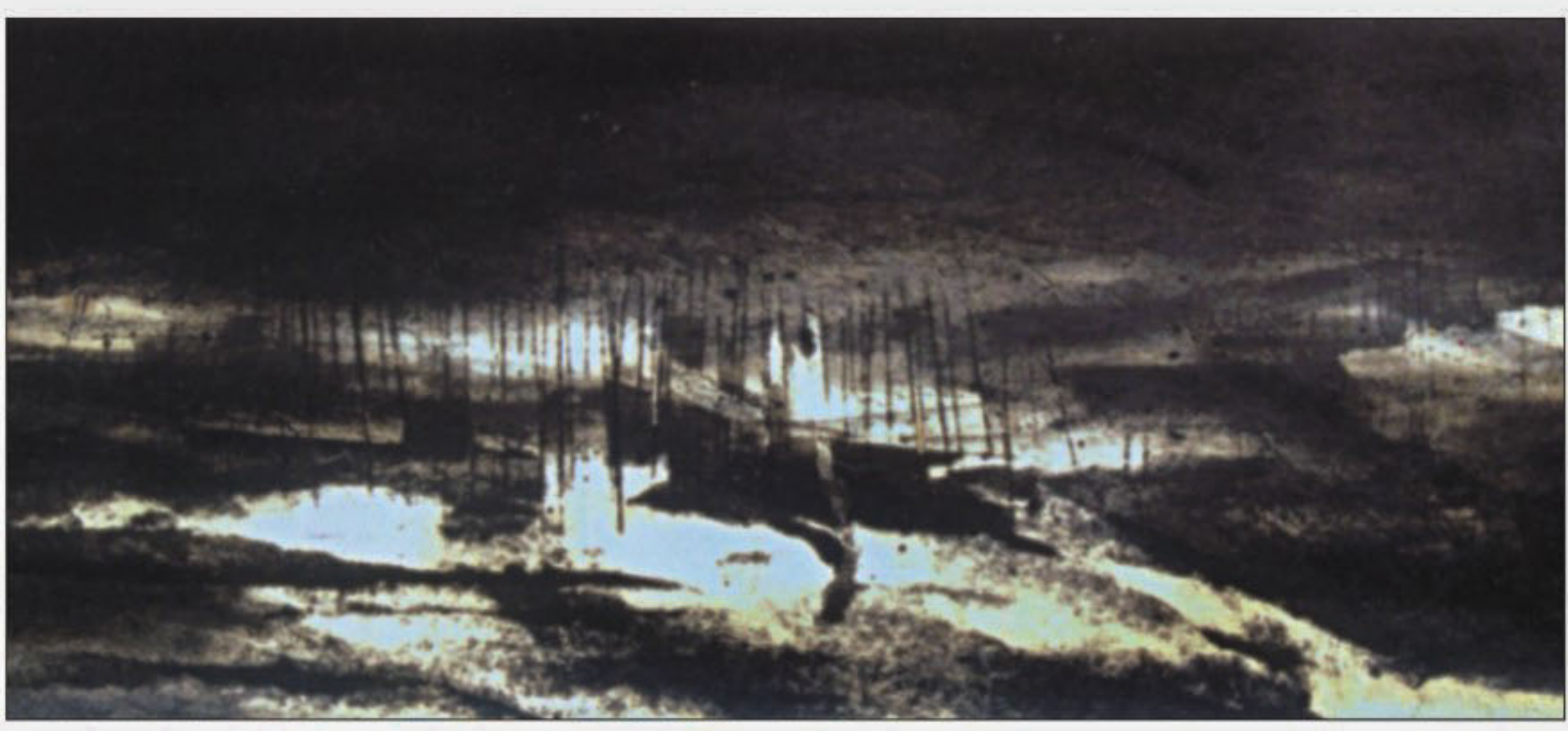
Selim Al Deen Death Anniversary

Organiser: Dhaka Theatre
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: January 14-15
Time: 8:45am onwards



Fokhrul Islam's solo painting exhibition

A display of innovative technique and texture



Artworks by Fokhrul Islam.

TAKIR HOSSAIN

The delicate lines, tones, textures and the fine monochromatic balance give a distinct look to the works of Fokhrul Islam, one of the noteworthy painters of the country.

Islam came to prominence in the mid '90s. He graduated from the Ceramic Department of Institute of Fine Arts (now Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka). After graduation, the artist did continue working in ceramics but eventually, shifted to painting. He developed a technique that remains unparalleled in contemporary Bangladeshi art. His paintings are closely connected to varied forms and structures of ceramics.

The artist's solo painting exhibition is now on at Alliance Francaise de Dhaka in Dhanmondi.

As an experimental painter, Islam delves into dots, points, monochromatic images and varied

vertical and horizontal lines. His works are engrossed with rich textured patterns and the paintings are technically sophisticated. Over the years, the painter has been working on a continuous series and has developed himself with innovative techniques and use of materials. He uses print ink with mustard or soybean oil, which he applies on board paper to add a different dimension to the black and white composition.

In his works, Islam demonstrates durability and transformation. Durability, in terms of his style and technique, and transformation, in terms of his choice of subjects and visualisation. For his subjects, the artist likes to paint gloomy sunsets, silent woodlands, vast deserts, thick forests, whirlwinds and other facets of nature. Sometimes his works envision moonlight on black water, a quiet village and many undiscovered aspects of nature.

A number of his works delineate serenity and

emptiness. After observing the works closely, one can enjoy the splendour of simplicity. Some works demonstrate a combination of geometric forms and straight as well as broken lines. His landscapes are usually in black and white, speaking in a monochromatic language.

At the exhibition, a number of Islam's works clearly reveal his fondness of pure architectural lines and shapes. The beauty of the images lies in light permeating varied vertical and horizontal lines. The light plays with the whole space of paintings.

Over the last few years, Islam has held several solo exhibitions, which received acclaimed because of his unique style and its continual development. An artist should continue his work process, style and arrangement of forms. Islam is one of the followers of that path.

The exhibition at Alliance Francaise ends on January 15.

Homage to filmmaker Shibli Sadik

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He was one of the most successful filmmakers of contemporary Bangladeshi film industry. The 1980s and early '90s were marked with his blockbusters including "Tin Konya", "Bheja Chokh" and "Neetibaan". Filmmaker Shibli Sadik passed away on January 7 at Central Hospital in the city due to several age related ailments. He was 69. Sadik left a son and a daughter.

Apart from film direction, Sadik was also a successful cinematographer and script-writer. "Nolok", "Reshmi Churi", "Jibon Niye Jua", "Bideshini" and "Shit Bashanto" are his other notable films.

Born on January 9, 1941 in Rajshahi, Sadik was a student of Fine Arts, though he did not complete his studies due to his passion for films. He made his debut through the documentary "Bashatbari". He was the assistant director of the film "Talash". Sadik's first feature film was "Bala". He and Syed Awal jointly directed the film.

The accomplished film personality also served at several important organisational roles. Sadik was the former general secretary as well as the president of Bangladesh Chalachchitra Parichalak Shamiti. He was also a member of Bangladesh Film Censor Board.

Sadik was concerned about the future



of the country's film industry. He involved himself with different film related activities. He was the president of a film production house called "Kutir-e-Chalochchitra". The goal of the house is to generate public interest in films through active participation by young filmmakers.

Another objective of the house is to uphold the accurate history of the Liberation War and Sadik appreciated the enthusiasm of young filmmakers to do so. He actively worked with them in this purpose.

Hitting the right notes in Rome

An evening with a Bangladeshi pianist

SADYA AFREEN MALICK, back from Rome

Rome, it is said is the city of dreams. It has attracted artists, painters, musicians for untold ages. As we walked past the Coliseum we couldn't fail noticing the imposing architecture and grandeur, the legacy of master architects, from all those centuries ago.

Rome, at present times, is also home to one of the largest Bangladeshi communities in Europe. Against this backdrop was it any surprise to come across a talented Bangladeshi who apart from studying for a law degree, was also into pursuing her dream of learning the piano?

After our tour of Coliseum, we visited part of the old Rome, famous for its winding roads, towards the "newer" Rome where I met Anika Rahman, a budding pianist who has already won acclaim in Europe.

During a tête-à-tête, the gifted artiste shared her musical experiences, aspirations and more.

Who did you learn piano from? Is piano/western music less popular in Bangladesh?

Anika: I started taking piano lessons at the age of eight from a local music teacher in Rome. Then I enrolled in a music school. Eventually, I was fortunate enough to be accepted as a pupil of a very renowned musician and music director at the Music Academy of St. Cecilia, one of the most prestigious music institutions in Europe. He taught me for over 6 years.

I would say that the piano as an instrument is less popular in Bangladesh. In Europe, many households will have a piano. In Bangladesh, for obvious reasons, this is not a trend.

As to 'western music', I suppose western classical music is certainly less familiar/popular in Bangladesh. I think this is because music is closely linked to the culture of a certain place. Whilst many people will recognise famous composers like Beethoven or Mozart, I think few will possess detailed knowledge in this field.

That said, I am quite sure that modern western music (pop, jazz, rock)



Anika Rahman

does get significant exposure, especially amongst the younger generations.

Is classical music your forte?

Anika: Classical music forms the base of all music, and when I perform, I do predominantly play classical music, although I am also able to play other sorts too.

Who are your teachers? Which pianists do you admire?

Anika: I have been taught to interpret the music in a very individualistic way. As such, I rarely look to other sources for inspiration. My greatest mentor has been my piano teacher himself, Maestro Luciano Cerroni.

Is the piano difficult to learn and what are the qualities required to be a good pianist?

Anika: Well I think to use the word

'difficult' you would have to compare learning the piano to learning something else. I think that compared to learning other instruments, the piano is difficult in that it provides the starting point and the fundamental basis to composing, directing, singing and playing other instruments. Many people therefore choose to tackle the piano first and as such, it is difficult because it is a person's first contact with the world of music.

The piano is also a highly complex instrument and as a pianist, you are often faced with a multitude of challenges. The number of things you can do on a piano is unrivalled on any other instrument. In this regard, it is difficult to master.

In answering your second question,

the notion of being a 'good' pianist, again, is very subjective -- as is everything else in music. However the basic skills one needs to possess in order to flourish are motivation, talent and technique.

Pianists...are there any particular ones you admire and what do you think of the quality of playing?

Anika: Richard Clyderman and Lang Lang are amongst some of the big contemporary musicians whom I admire. Both are incredibly virtuos pianists who definitely add something special to the music when they perform.

However, to date my favourite pianist is Sergey Rachmaninoff himself, who was also a composer in addition to being a pianist. I think his talent and the extent to which he pushed for the development of the previous romantic works of Tchaikovsky and Rimsky-Korsakov through his own performances, makes him one of the most influential pianists of all time.

Anika took exams from the Royal School of Music (England), and from the Music Institution of St. Cecilia, passing with the highest grades.

She has won several international competitions including the 'Premio Valentino Bucchi' and the Perugia Music Competition in addition to being awarded several musical bursaries and scholarships.

Anika has performed extensively throughout Europe. "Places where I have performed include the Capitoline Hill of Rome, and a famous church in the capital also. Other places I have performed at include embassies in Copenhagen and Cairo, to name a few," she adds.

Anika is currently taking a year out from legal studies and working at the World Food Programme. Being in Rome, she hopes to take up the opportunity to start practising again, having access to an instrument and may be involved in a fundraising concert for an international organisation in the near future.

"I don't want to make depressing films for my fans" -- Salman Khan

Salman Khan gave one of the biggest Bollywood hits of 2009 with "Wanted". It almost made the audience forget his next two duds -- "Main Aurr Mrs Khanna" and "London Dreams".

Now with the new year comes new releases. January 22 will see Salman in "Veer", a movie written by the actor himself. It is loosely based on Russian author Nikolai Gogol's novel, "Taras Bulba".

Salman plays a warrior Veer of the Pindhari tribe, who rebels against the British rule.

The actor recently shared what to expect from the film:

"I will always praise my film till my fans criticise it. You never know what will work or what will not. There is no formula. It is not that I have written this film so it has to work. I will only know after January 22.

Had he done any research for the film? "Lots. But this is not a regular period film. There is emotion, drama and comedy in 'Veer', something which is missing in many period films. Usually, period films are bereft of laughter and romance. But we have tried to be different here. The language has completely changed. We have done a number of things to make the film more contemporary."

On why he chose to do a period film, the

actor said, "I wanted to show how people in those days lived. How they honoured their commitments. When they are enemies with someone, it continued through the generations. The same with love. And when they give you their word, they will do anything to keep it, even if it meant that their children will have to fulfil them."

How close is the film to Taras Bulba? "The thought was there. Pindharis are like the Cossacks (Cossacks were among Russia's greatest military assets). The British called them barbarians though all they wanted was freedom. I have given an Indian flavour to the story."

Does he feel that fans love him more in action films? "Family films and comedies work too. I try to balance my work. I want to entertain my fans and audiences. I don't want to make depressing films for them."

About his recent films "Main Aurr Mrs Khanna" and "London Dreams" which flopped... "London Dreams" was a good film but it was too long. I told Vipul Shah (director) to cut it but he did not listen to me. If I am getting bored with my own film, you can't blame the audience if they get bored too."

Compiled by Correspondent



Salman Khan in "Veer".