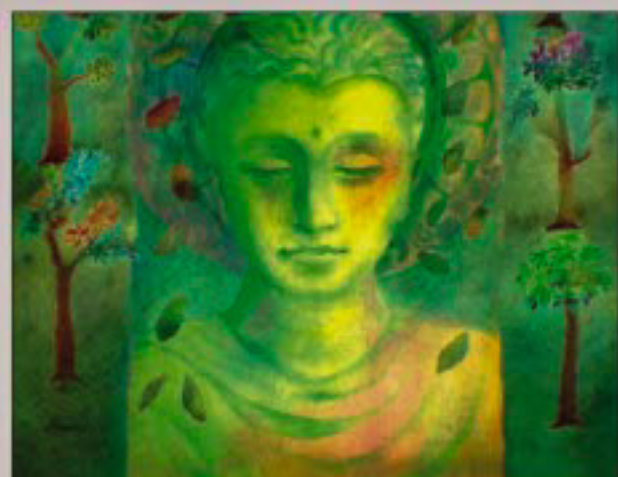


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

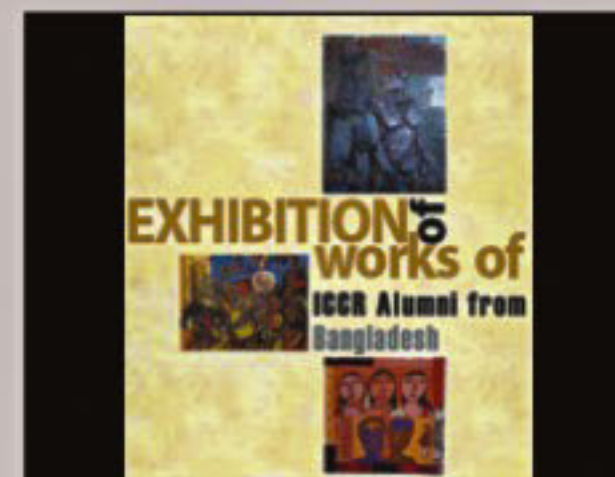
Group Art Exhibition
Title: In Search of Roots
Venue: Zainul Gallery 1, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU
Date: March 11-17
Time: 2pm-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Not Here
Artist: Ali Akbar
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: March 13-27
Time: 3-9pm (except Fridays and Saturdays)



Group Art Exhibition
Organiser: High Commission of India, Dhaka and ICCR
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1
Date: March 10-23
Time: 10am-6pm



Theatre
Play: Umajal
Troupe: Nandimukh (Chittagong)
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 19
Time: 7pm



Theatre

“Mohola Magan”: Prachyanat’s in-house festival at Shilpakala Academy



Scenes from “Kathopokathan” (top) and “Trishonku”.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

ZAHANGIR ALOM

To promote emerging theatre activists, Prachyanat has organised a four daylong theatre festival, titled “Mahola Magan”. The festival opened on March 15 at Studio Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

It was drizzling on the well-decorated roof of the auditorium. Prachyanat artistes were rendering songs from their popular productions.

The convenor of the festival, Taufiqul Islam Emon, welcomed the guests from other theatre troupes -- Dipak Sumon and Apel Shahriar of Aranyak; Zaman and Pantha Shahriar of Nagarik Natya Sampradaya; Utpal Chakraborti and Poly Biswas of Mahakal; Kazi Faisal and Shamim Sagor of Palakar; Munna and Chandan of Bottola; Rawnak Laboni and Samad Bhuiyan of Swapnadol. Renowned theatre personalities Mamunur Rashid and Azad Abul Kalam, director (acting) of Prachyanat, were also present on the occasion.

On the opening day, two in-house productions of Prachyanat -- “Kathopokathan” and “Trishonku”

were staged.

The first act of “Kathopokathan” zooms in on the distress of dirt-

poor people at the hands of Mohajon (moneylender) while the second act portrays a heated debate between an atheist writer and God. The third act depicts how the materialism dominates idealism. The lure of things produces existential crises amongst human beings.

Written and directed by Rinkon Shikdar, the cast included Shanta, Mitul Rahman and Rinkon Shikdar. Jem directed the music, while Abul Hasnat Bhuiyan was in charge of light design.

Directed by Hira Chowdhury, the other play of the day was “Trishonku”. The production is based on improvisation. Set in Italy, the three-act play highlights the triumph of love over social barriers, fate etc.

The cast of the play included Parvin Sultana Koli, Hira Chowdhury and Rifat. Jem along with Nobel and Shahriar Shawn directed the music while Parvin Sultana Koli choreographed the production.

Today two productions “Patar Khela” and “Bioscope” will be staged at the festival.



“Deep Inside” the worlds of artists Camellia and Urmi

NUSRAT JAHAN PRITOM

“Anubhober Antonirey” or “Deep Inside” is the first duet exhibition of sisters by Fahmida Jasmine Camellia and Fatema Jasmine Urmi. The exhibition -- at Drik Gallery -- was inaugurated

on March 15. Professor A.A.M.S Arefin Siddique (Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University), eminent artists Biron Shome and Sheikh Afzal were present at the inauguration.

“Against all the odds, inequalities and prejudice women are making their

presence felt. Through my work, that is what I aim to portray, that woman despite all the hardship, still stand strong,” said Urmi. Camellia said, “On this beautiful evening, we have all gathered to unveil the messages conveyed through our art. Some

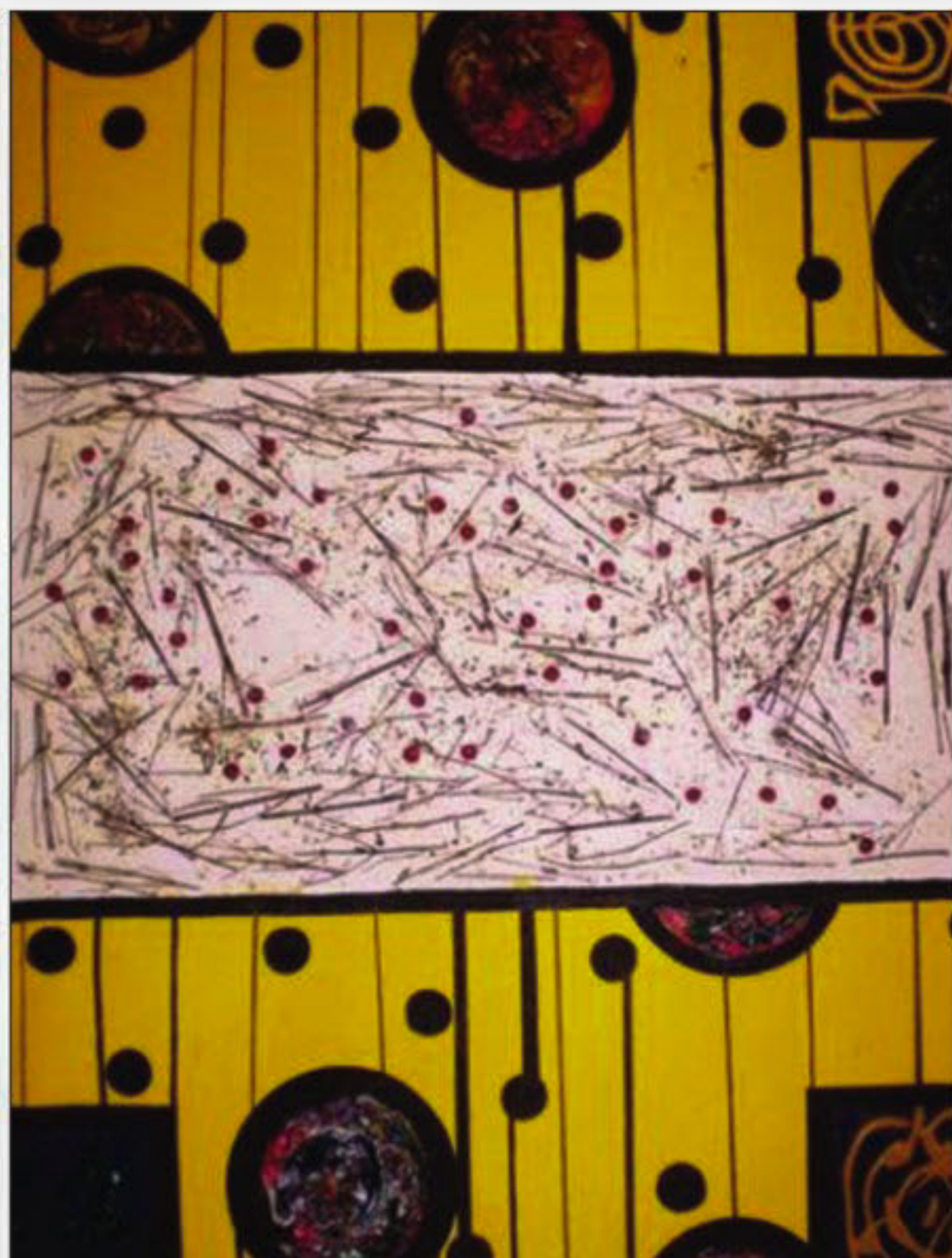
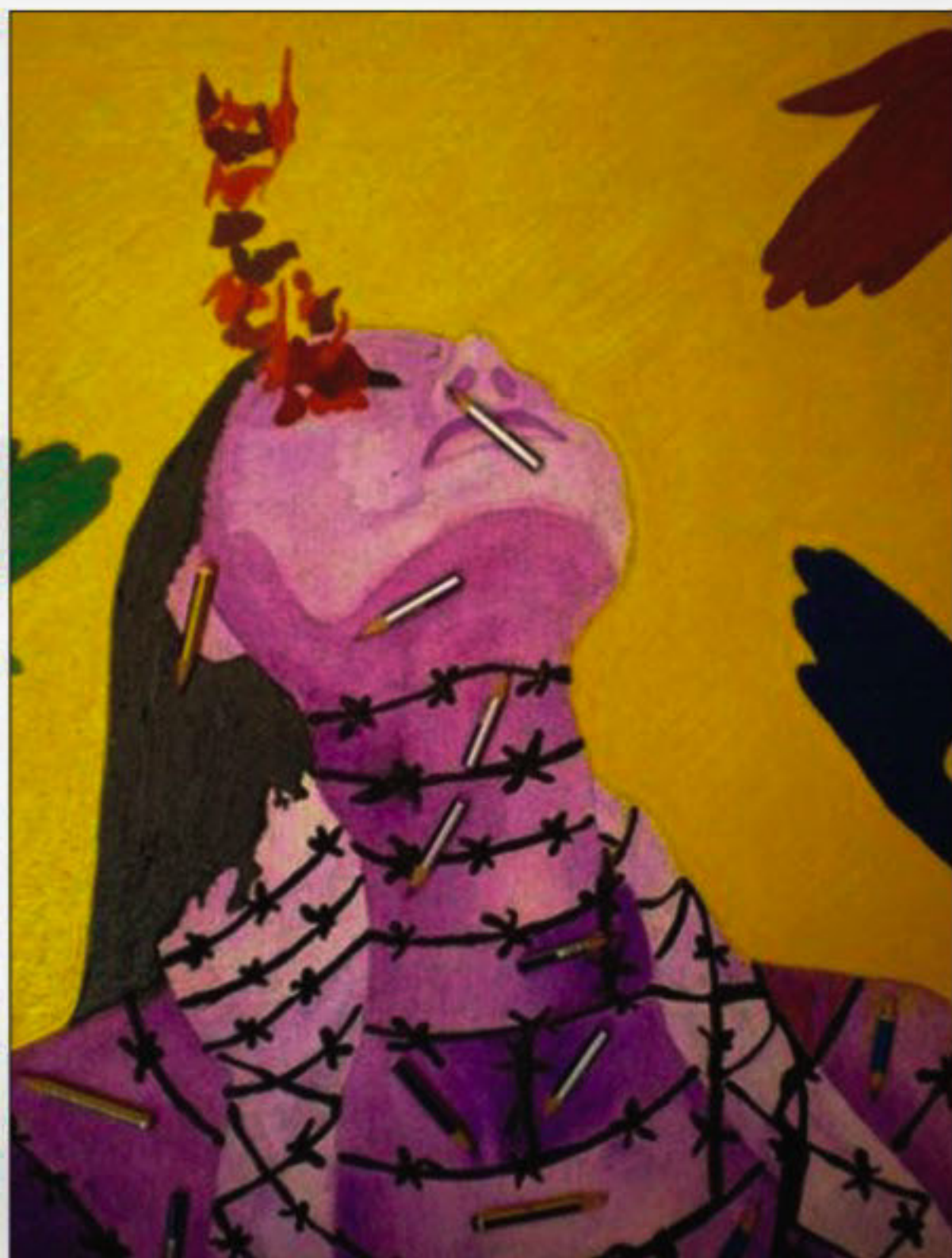
express themselves through music, some with words -- there are various forms of expressions. Elements of nature, prevalent social problems are major themes of our works. If we can stir the conscience of the viewers, we would call ourselves successful.”

Artist Biron Shome said, “The subjects of these works such as nature, dreams, emotions, etc are well-suited to draw the attention of the viewer. In this day and age, we expect new things from young artists. These two artists don't disappoint as their sights are acute and their messages lucid.

Professor A.A.M.S Arefin Siddique said that with new insight and new vision, people can see clearly the changes that need to be made and can participate in reform.

The works have been done in oil, acrylic and mixed media. There is a wide usage of symbols, mostly taken from nature that is in harmony with the unique messages integrated within. Allusions to keys, chains and shackles and confinement pronounce repeatedly of the status quo in these trying times. But the wonderful footsteps, vibration, feeling of liberation or just its attempt provide a contrasting, hopeful picture similar to the paradox that is this century.

The exhibition will continue till March 20.



Works by Urmi (left) and Camellia.

Talent hunt for reciters

“Abritti Chhandey Anandey” begins from March 19



(L-R): Ahkamullah, Asaduzzaman Noor, Faridur Reza Sagar and Kazi Mahtab Uddin Ahmed at the press conference.

A CORRESPONDENT

The second instalment of the talent hunt for reciters, “Cute-Channel i Abritti Chhandey Anandey” begins nationwide from March 19. This year the programme will be held more elaborately.

The preliminary selection round begins through registration for Khulna region on March 19. Gradually it will extend to other divisional cities and Dhaka Metropolitan. The final round would feature 100 selected contestants from all over the country.

The talent hunt will feature contestants aged between 17 and 27. Individuals have to register through Abritti Shamannay Parishad.

The judges' panel will include eminent cultural personalities Kamal Lohani, Hasan Imam; reciters Kazi Arif, Hasan Arif, Pagna Laboni, Bhaswar Banerjee, Laila Afroz,

Kamrul Hasan Manju, Ahkamullah, Rabi Sankar Moitri and actor-reciters Pijush Bandopadhyay, Jayanta Chattopadhyay.

Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Kazi Abu Zafar Siddiqui, Nirmalendu Goon, Asad Chowdhury, Rafiq Azad, Muhammad Nurul Huda, Al Mansur and Subarna Mustafa would appear on the show as guest judges.

Apu Mahfuz is the host of the programme. Amirul Islam will produce the show, while Ahkamullah will coordinate it. Rabi Sankar Moitri is the instructor.

The announcements were made at a press conference held at Channel i's Tejgaon office on March 15. Among others, Lawmaker-media personality Asaduzzaman Noor; Kazi Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, chairman and managing director of Moushumi Industries Ltd; Faridur Reza Sagar, managing director, Impress Telefilm Ltd; Ahkamullah; Rabi Sankar Moitri and last year's winner Shamim were present at the press conference.

‘Medal’ for killing Caesar shows at British Museum

A unique gold coin celebrating the assassination of Julius Caesar, which may have been worn as a boastful talisman by one of the emperor's killers, went on display at the British Museum on March 15 -- the Ides of March, marking the 2,054th anniversary of his death.

The British Museum was first shown the coin in 1932 but couldn't afford to buy it. Many private owners later, it has now been loaned to the museum, and will be displayed for the first time.

Caesar was struck down at the Senate, stabbed 23 times, in 44BC. The coin was among those issued by Caesar's former friend and ally, Brutus, leader of the conspirators, after they fled to Greece.

Although 60 surviving examples of the silver

version are known, including several in the museum's coins and medals collection, there were only believed to be two in gold. Experts now believe one of those is a fake, making the newly displayed treasure unique.

The coin shows the head of Brutus on one side and, on the other, two daggers and the date, Eid Mar, the Ides of March, which would forever after be regarded as unlucky. The daggers flank a pileus, a freeman's hat, symbolising the conspirators' insistence that in killing Caesar they were toppling a tyrant who threatened the future of the Roman republic.

Source: guardian.co.uk

Hope amidst angst

Anyadesh Group Theatre of the Sightless stages “Kaliya Daman”

KAVITA, New Delhi

He could have spent the rest of his life in darkness. Losing his eyesight at the age of two due to a botched operation for a tumour near his eye and his parents the same year, life might have been one endless night for Subhash Dey. Instead, tended by his two elder sisters, he went on to complete his studies and pursue his passion for theatre. Today he is a talented theatre professional and an integral member of the Kolkata-based Anyadesh Group Theatre of the Sightless.

Dey's indubitable talent as a theatre director and lead actor were greeted with applause by the responsive audience that had turned up to see the mythological play “Kaliya Daman” staged recently in Delhi. The Anyadesh production is a modern day allegory of Lord Krishna's subjugation of the deadly snake Kaliya which had taken over the Yamuna river in Vrindavan and terrorised the inhabitants of the village.

add, is combined with folk music (kirtan) and folk dances.

Touch, sound and smell play a very important role for the 30-member cast. Ropes and makeshift sets on the stage enable the actors to determine their position on the stage, while the music helps the artists get their cues right.

Anyadesh (another country), the only such theatre

often had to contend with sheer societal apathy. Says the visually impaired Raja Faiz Alam, secretary of Anyadesh, “We truly seem to belong to another country; we are completely marginalised. Society is not yet ready to take us into the mainstream.”

But Anyadesh members will not give up the fight. One of their plans is to set up an



Actors of Kolkata-based Anyadesh Group in the play.

group in India, was set up in 2006. The brain child of the sighted actor, director and writer Shubhashis Gangopadhyay, the pioneer of group theatre for the sightless in India, the organisation has 40 members today.

Anyadesh members have

art and cultural Institution for the Blind. The institute will offer the visually impaired in the 15-35 age group a chance to pick up activities such as dance, music, martial arts, theatre and yoga. “This is our dream; we are scouting around for land, possibly near Kolkata. Our appeal is that people should support us, with advice, financial support and so on,” concludes Dey.