

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Film Show

Russian Animation Films
Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, H-42, R-7, Dhanmondi
Date: April 24
Time: 5pm



Group Art Exhibition

Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, 275/F Road-16, Dhanmondi
Date: 16-30
Time: 12pm-8pm



Film Screening

Organiser: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre
Films: Documentary on Pather Panchali and Apur Sangsar
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1
Date: April 24
Time: 6pm onwards



International Dance Day

Organiser: Dance Artists Association and Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Theatre Centre, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: April 23-29
Time: 6.30pm



Short Take

A CORRESPONDENT

Runa Laila's fame exceeds the borders of Bangladesh. Born in a family that nurtured her love for music, she made her singing debut at the age of six. She first sang for an Urdu film at the age of eleven. By her teens, she had a large fan following, not only for the powerful voice she possessed but also for the charisma, the grace and the appeal that was her signature.

The Daily Star: You have recorded around 15000 songs. How many languages do you sing in?

Runa Laila: I have recorded numerous songs for films in Bangla, Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Sindhi, Pushto, Gujarati and can sing in English, Spanish, French, Japanese, Arabic, Nepalese, Italian, Chinese, Pothohari and Kashmiri.

I consider myself a playback singer primarily. I've been keen on learning languages since childhood. I can speak Bangla, Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi, English and Sindhi; can read Arabic and speak a bit of French as well.

The Daily Star: Your favourite song?

Runa Laila: It is difficult to mention one favourite song out of so many, but I think one of them would certainly be "Gaaneri Khata-e Shorolipi Likhey" (from the film "Shorolipi")



Runa Laila

PHOTO: STAR

composed by Subal Das and written by Gazi Mazharul Anwar. Incidentally, that's the first song I recorded for a Bangla film. The song was recorded in Lahore. At that time I was mainly singing for Pakistani films in Urdu.

Shahid Kapur returns to school



Shahid Kapur (left) in a scene from "Paathshala".

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

It's not often a Bollywood actor visits his alma mater to promote his film.

But Shahid Kapur did precisely that when he visited the Gyan Bharati Public School in Delhi when he was here last week for the promo of his latest film "Paathshala".

In the film, 29-year-old Shahid plays the role of an English teacher in a school, and it was perhaps in the fitness of things that he returned to the school where he had studied till the age of 10 before shifting to Mumbai with his father.

It was a holiday at Gyan Bharati School but somehow the word went round that the actor would visit it and a large number of students had turned up to shake hands with him and take his autographs.

Shahid recalled to the media how he would hold the hand of his grandfather and reach the school and then request the guard to let him in

as he used to be late, almost always, by five minutes. He, however, advised students not to do so.

Shahid visited his old classrooms, interacted with the students, shared his memories of the school and watched a cultural show presented by the students.

While Shahid projected himself as a naughty student indulging in pranks, his former class teacher described him as shy and reserved. The teacher is surprised that Shahid has become an actor and recalled that he had never displayed inclination for acting when he was in the school. Another teacher recalled that Shahid was attentive in class and never troubled him.

Shahid said that the film sends out the message of the importance of education in life.

The actor also took the opportunity of visiting the apartment in South Delhi where he had spent his early years.

A MYRIAD OF THEMES AND TECHNIQUES

Bengal Gallery celebrates 10th anniversary with group exhibitions

TAKIR HOSSAIN

On the occasion of its 10th anniversary, Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts has arranged a series of ten exhibitions. The first group art exhibition titled "Rooted Creativity", featuring the works of ten senior painters of Bangladesh, is now on at the Bengal Gallery, Dhanmondi in Dhaka. Featured painters are Shafiuddin Ahmed, Mohammad Kibria, Qayyum Chowdhury, Murtaja Baseer, Syed Jahangir, Hashem Khan, Rafiqun Nabi, Monirul Islam, Mahmudul Haque and Shahabuddin Ahmed.

Shafiuddin Ahmed is the senior-most surviving painter in Bangladesh. He was born in West Bengal and migrated to Dhaka after Partition (1947). From the beginning of his career, he has been very contemplative. He is very thorough with his lines, colours and forms. The veteran painter is now bedridden and detached from his creative world. Ahmed is particularly known for his woodcut engraving. His works highlighted velvety panoramic beauty, everyday life, effects

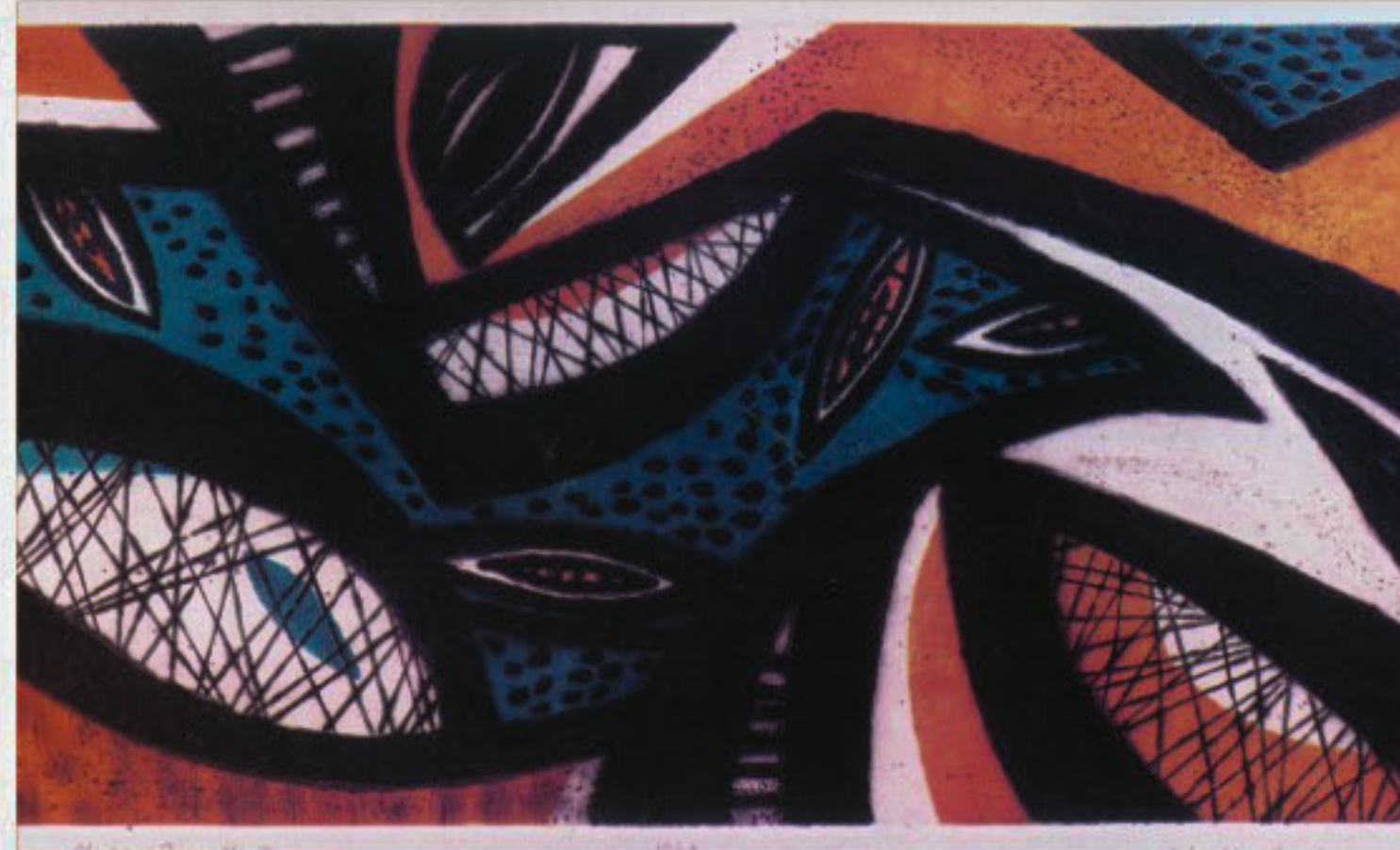
versatile genius. Throughout his illustrious career, he has been approaching several styles and mediums. At the age of 78, he is still actively exploring the diverse world of art. He has done a series of works articulating the contemporary life, time and issues. His works delve deep into figurative and abstract styles. At the exhibition, four of his paintings are on display. Two of his realistic figurative paintings portray his family members. The paintings were done in 2003. The other two belongs to the series "The Wing". These works are slightly different from the artist's previous works, as they highlight uneven texture. His previous works' texture and surface are more smooth and silky.

Syed Jahangir, who is a 1995 graduate from Govt. Institute of Arts and Crafts (presently Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka). He is greatly influenced by American Expressionism and his themes are closely connected to rural Bengal and its rivers. Harvest, fishing on a moonlit night, paddy fields are frequent themes in his works. His works at the exhibition feature



artist likes to work with sharp lines, doodles, dots, geometric and architectural forms, and a lot of symbols - transforming expressions. The exhibition includes his "Way of Meghna", an acrylic piece with eloquent lines and subdued colours. Open space is an integral aspect of his works. Both tranquility and transparency are unique characteristics in his paintings and printmaking (particularly etching and aquatint).

Mahmudul Haque has a fondness for compositions and forms. His paintings can be categorised according to the use of solid forms and compositions. Sometimes his compositions look rigid. His works explore kaleidoscopic patterns and an imaginary world. At the exhibition his "Joy of Creation" presents a flat space with subtle colours as well as thick textures that have made the work appear relaxed. The exhibition ends on April 30.



of calamities and such. His in-depth observation helped him explore the ins and outs of the themes. Black is the predominant shade in his works and the artist experimented with layers of this colour. His works are technique oriented as well. At the exhibition, four prints (two etchings and aquatints and two wood engravings) by the artist (done between 1947 and 1964) are on display.

Mohammad Kibria was born in Birbhum in 1929 and he graduated in painting from the College of Arts and Crafts, Calcutta (now Kolkata) in 1950. He studied painting and graphics at Tokyo University of Fine Arts as well. During that time the artist focused on colours and textures. Then he moved on to experimenting with pure geometrical forms. His works denote the inner journey. Blue, black, grey, orange and brown are noticeable hues in his works. At the exhibition, Kibria's "Untitled-2" is on display. The oil piece is relatively more appealing for its smooth and soft composition.

Murtaja Baseer is known as a

figures and objects that look more polished. Blue, golden, green and red are dominant colours in his works.

Rafiqun Nabi is well known for his paintings, woodcut prints and drawings. His paintings often highlight rural people. Recurring subjects are fishermen, kingfishers, boats, crows, birds, labourers, broken bridge, buffalos, people at leisure and serene ambience. The artist usually likes to use azure, yellow, ochre, red, black and emerald green. Nabi's figures and objects are closely attached and create a unique synchronisation. The artist arranges motifs in different combinations of light and shade. At the exhibition, his "Kingfisher" (acrylic) shows the brightly coloured birds eagerly waiting for their prey. The painter has beautifully captured a moment in time.

Monirul Islam controls his mediums and techniques with a certain mastery. Figures and objects are at times directly and at times suggestively portrayed in his works. The



Clockwise (from top-right): artworks by Murtaja Baseer, Rafiqun Nabi and Shafiuddin Ahmed.

"The Jungle Book" gets hi-tech avatar

Children's favourite jungle hero Mowgli, Baloo the bear and panther Bagheera will soon return to the small screen in a new hi-tech avatar.

The BBC will broadcast the new adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's classic "The Jungle Book", which has been made in India at the cost of 8 million pounds.

It is the first animated version of the stories since the hugely popular 1967 Disney feature film but has been created by computer instead of being hand-drawn.

The BBC bought the programmes in a 1 million pounds deal with Indian independent production company DQ Entertainment.

The 52-part series will air on Children's BBC later this year.

This new adaptation of Kipling's "The Jungle Book" is being billed as an "action adventures

comedy for 21st century kids" and is already on air in France, Australia and Germany.

The series was made in India, which is where Bombay-born Kipling set his original story.

Steven Andrew, head of drama and acquisitions for CBBC, said the programmes updated the stories, which were first published in 1894, for a new generation. "The world of the jungle is looking glorious in the series and will reintroduce this brand to a generation who might not know this fabulous story."

Tapaas Chakravarti, chief executive of DQ Entertainment, added, "Considerable time and effort has been given to produce an animation series worthy of the rich heritage 'The Jungle Book' represents."

Born in Bombay, Kipling was named after Rudyard Lake, Staffordshire. He turned down a

kighthood. In 1907, aged 43, became the first British author to win the Nobel Prize for literature and continues to be the youngest recipient of the award.

Kipling wrote "The Jungle Book" as a collection of stories for a magazine in 1894 before a single book was published, which became one of the most loved children's work in English language.

Set in India, the story followed the adventures of man cub Mowgli, who abandoned by his parents, is raised by a wolf with her cubs and his journey back to a human village.

In the 1942 it was made into a live action film but it is the 1960s animated feature film that has been most popular. It was also one of the last Walt Disney worked on before his death from lung cancer in 1966.

Source: Internet

TV play "Shomporker Dana" on Desh TV

A CORRESPONDENT

Single-episode TV play, "Shomporker Dana" will be aired on Desh TV tonight at 9:45pm. Written and directed by Wahid Tarek, the play features Dilara Zaman, Jaya Ahsan and Intekhab Dinar in central roles.

The story circles a triangular love story. A frank Nusrat at first chooses her university friend Zahid as life partner. But reality shatters all their dreams and commitment as well. A dynamic Ripon who loves to dream and can easily convince others, fascinates Nusrat.



Intekhab Dinar and Jaya Ahsan in the play.