

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

21st National Rabindra Sangeet Festival
 Organiser: Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha
 Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Public Library, Shahbagh
 Date: May 4-8
 Time: 7pm onwards



Group Art Exhibition

Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: May 4-10
 Time: 12pm-7pm



Musical Soiree

Venue: Ramesh Chandra Dutt Auditorium, Chayyanaut Bhaban
 Date: May 7
 Time: 7pm



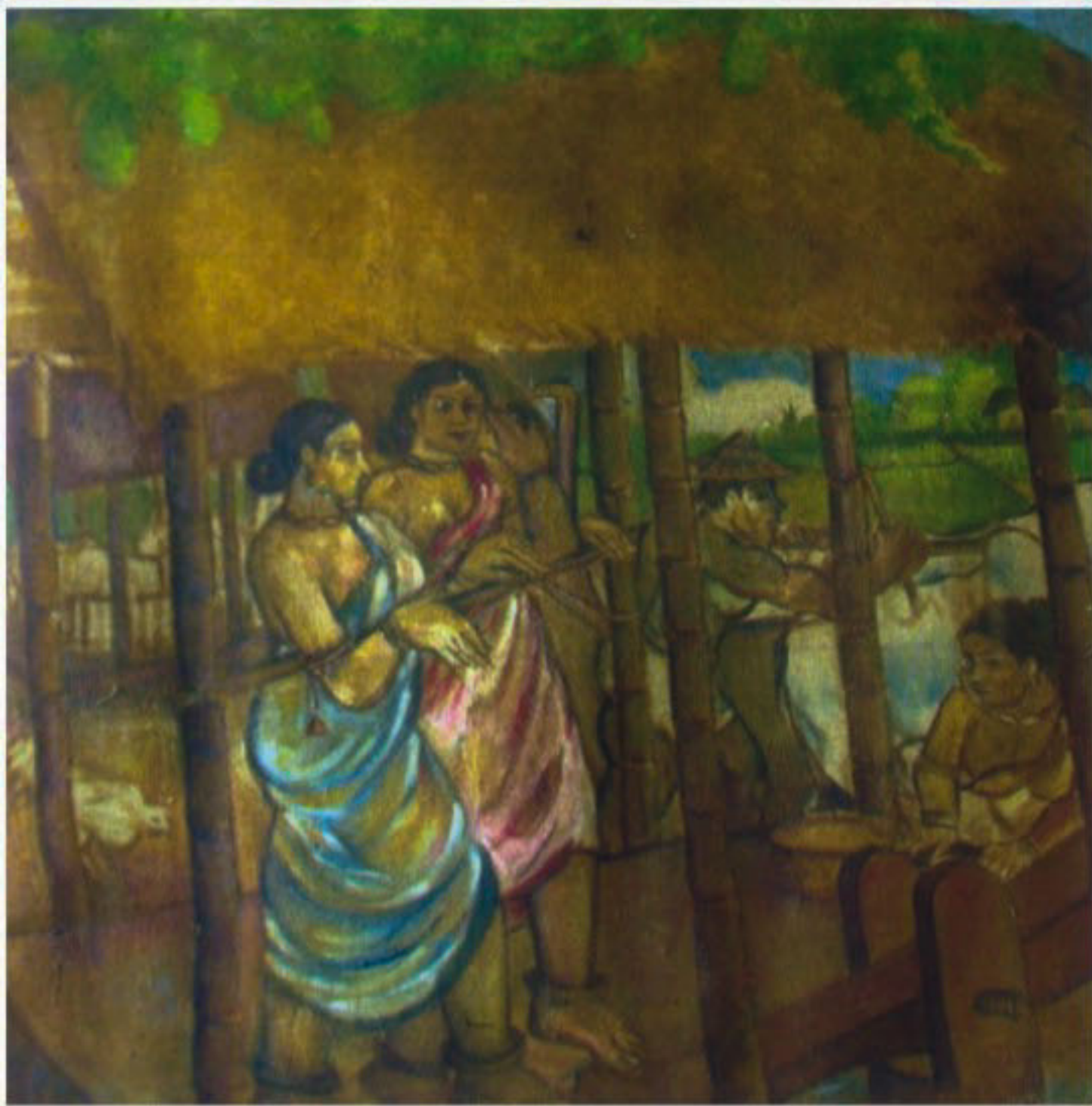
Jatra Pala

Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
 Date: May 6-12
 Time: 7pm
 May 7: "Swami-Stri" (Agrogami Jatra Unit)



Showcasing the artistic greats

Art exhibition at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy



SM Sultan

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) has organised a weeklong art exhibition featuring the works of leading and promising painters of Bangladesh at National Art Gallery, BSA. The works on display are from the collections of BSA.

Works by Quamrul Hassan, SM Sultan, Shafiuddin Ahmed, Mohammad Kibria, Rashid Chowdhury, Abdur Razzaque, Abdul Baset, Aminul Islam, Devdas Chakraborty, Murtaja Baseer, Samarjit Roy



Rashid Chowdhury

Chowdhury, Shamsul Islam Nizami, Syed Jahangir, Monirul Islam and others on display. Some sculptures have enriched the Academy's collection, for example, the works of Mohammad Anwar Jahan, Shamim Shikdar, Syed Abdullah Khalid, Moni Mondol, Nitun Kundu and others.

Quamrul Hassan was one of the founding members of the Dacca Art College (now known as Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University). His works highlight nature, human figures, birds, trees, animals as well as landscapes. Quamrul Hassan's paintings are recognised for

their bold, flowing brushstrokes and brilliant colours. He experimented with all media like watercolour, oil, acrylic, gouache, lino, litho, silk and serigraph. On display at the exhibition, his "Nayor" depicts a village bride on an ox-cart, going to her parent's home.

A bohemian and mystic, SM Sultan delved deep into rural life, especially fishermen, peasants, labourers and their simple lives. At the exhibition, his paintings visually narrate stories of rural households, where women are seen busy doing chores, farmers toiling in the fields

and some in a leisurely mood. His figures are muscled and powerful, denoting a sense of prosperity -- a vision the artist had for rural Bengal. Sultan drew the male figures according to European Renaissance tradition, while his women -- buxom and curvaceous -- belong to the old Indian tradition.

Kazi Abdul Baset was another significant painter who was able to create his own individual impression in both realistic and abstract works. In his realistic works, he mingled many elements of rural Bengali life. "Gypsy Girl", "Woman with Fan", "Fisherman" are some of his widely popular creations. At the exhibition, his crimson and grey-based composition provides a soothing sensation.

Aminul Islam is one of the senior-most and accomplished contemporary painters. He is one of the artists who introduced modernism to the Bangladeshi art scene. He was greatly influenced by some of the European masters from the Renaissance period. Time and nostalgia have remained his favourite themes over the years. His "Shomoy Ebong Shomoy Oti", is mainly a collage where various images of romance, war, procession, and congregation have been denoted.

Abdur Razzaque was a watercolourist, oil painter and sculptor. At the exhibition, his painting and sculpture both are on display. His paintings have some similarities with his sculptures. There is a certain solidness about the compositions in his paintings. His colours appear warm and romantic.

Chandra Shekhor Dey prefers portraits in diverse forms and shapes. Most of his works have been meticulously done. His works capture the uncertainties and dilemmas in our society. At the exhibition, his featured work is a portrait of

Anwarul Haque, another renowned painter of Bangladesh. Chandra Shekhor's skilled hands beautifully construct his realistic works.

Mominul Reza is a contemplative painter who lives in Bogra. The painter's forms and themes are simple but stand out for their arrangements and eloquence. His paintings are noticeable for their light quality. Hangers or clothespins are recurring subjects in his works. However, there are no clothes depicted in this series. Straight lines and psychedelic colours give the works a distinct look.

Painter Shamsul Islam Nizami was a reserved, modest individual. He was influenced by another noted Bangladeshi artist, Mohammad Kibria. Most of Nizami's works show flat forms and compositions using vivacious colours.

KMA Quayyum is a romantic and naturalist painter. His works highlight greenery, flora and other wonders of nature. He is known for his subtle approach. Vivid colours and delicate tonal effects are the main features of his paintings. Quayyum's works are rich with varied lines, tree trunks, shrubs, wrinkled bark, wild flowers, fish, leaves, ropes, papers, stones, boats, snails and much more. His works are seemingly time-consuming and the artist goes great lengths to detail his subjects.

At the exhibition, Nasim Ahmed Nadvi, Alokesh Ghosh, Mohammad Eunos, Aziz Sharafi and Matur Rahman's Mati's watercolours depict untainted Bangladeshi pastoral beauty. Lucidity makes the works remarkable.

The exhibition will continue till May 10.



Quamrul Hassan

Lifetime achievement award for Bonna

A CORRESPONDENT

Channel i will be awarding accomplished Tagore artiste Rezwana Chowdhury Bonna with a lifetime achievement award on the occasion of 149th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore. The announcement was made at a press conference at the channel's Tejgaon office yesterday. Among others, Faridur Reza Sagar, managing director, Impress Telefilm Ltd and channel i, was present at the event.

The artiste will be presented the award at the 'Robi Channel i Rabindra Mela' -- a daylong event to be held at the Channel's Tejgaon office premises on May 8. This is the fifth 'Rabindra Mela' by channel i. Mobile phone operator Robi is the sponsor of this year's mela.

As part of the award Bonna will receive Taka 2 lakh, a crest and an *urtorio*.

Channel i will telecast the event live from 11:05 am on May 8. The mela will continue till 5 pm.



Rezwana Chowdhury Bonna

"Choita Pagol": Mahfuz Ahmed's latest venture

SHAH ALAM SHAJU

Popular TV actor Mahfuz Ahmed has moved towards direction over the last few years. "Amader Nurul Huda" was the first drama serial that he co-directed with Aranya Anwar. "Tomar Doa-e Bhalo Achhi Ma", directed by Mahfuz, was much admired by the TV viewers. Both serials were aired on ATN Bangla. Besides serial, the actor-helmer has directed several single-episode plays.

Currently, Mahfuz is busy directing a new serial, "Choita Pagol." Aside from direction, he is also playing the protagonist in the 104-episode serial written by Brindaban Das.

The Daily Star (TDS) recently caught up with the actor:

TDS: Updates on your latest production?

Mahfuz: Twenty episodes of "Choita Pagol" have already been shot. Shooting is on at Lauhojong, Munshiganj. Channel i will air the serial twice a week,

starting from next month.

TDS: What is the plot?

Mahfuz: A naive young man, Choita, whom the villagers call "pagol" (crazy), remains well for 11 months. For a month every year, Choita turns insane. The villagers exploit Choita and make him do all kinds of work but when he turns "mad," he is shunned by all. Even when he goes without food for days, no one comes to his assistance. The story addressed the conscience of our society.

TDS: Do you find it challenging to direct and act in the same serial?

Mahfuz: It's not a major problem. However, sometimes there is extra pressure. Mosharraf Karim was going to play the role but we changed our decision four days before shooting began.

TDS: What triggered the recast?

Mahfuz: Mosharraf Karim is not only a prolific actor but is also one my favourite people. As he is busy on many fronts and couldn't give us the time we needed, we had to recast.

TDS: James has recorded the theme song for the serial?

Mahfuz: Yes, this is the first time James has done the theme song for a TV serial. I'm very excited about this! I hope the song will be popular.

I'm hopeful that viewers will find something new and fresh in the serial.



Mahfuz Ahmed

Translated by A Correspondent

"I was not aware of Shabana's work when I met her" -- Sendhil Ramamurthy

Need evidence of the Indian Diaspora's increasing importance in world cinema? Look no further than "It's a Wonderful Afterlife" which comes out soon. It's been directed by British filmmaker of Indian origin Gurinder Chadha and stars Indian American Sendhil Ramamurthy and internationally renowned Indian actress Shabana Azmi.

In a way, for Sendhil, working in the British film signals he's come full circle.

Before earning fame and recognition as Dr. Mohinder Suresh on the hugely popular US drama series "Heroes", Sendhil went to acting school in London and spent much time as a struggling stage actor in the city's rich drama scene.

Now, after a long, successful run on "Heroes", Sendhil is leaving the show and appears to be focusing on his big-screen ventures.

In a recent interview he discussed "It's a Wonderful Afterlife", his future in Indian cinema and how it was to work with a legend of Indian cinema, Shabana Azmi. Excerpts from the interview:

After major success on TV in the US, you've done overseas projects like "Shor" and "It's a Wonderful Afterlife". Why now? Did you feel that your best option for transitioning to films would be

through foreign cinema? Why not Hollywood films?

Sendhil: I don't see films as Hollywood or Bollywood. I would do films if my character is good, regardless of which part of the world they are from. I have been offered films from Bollywood before, but I didn't do them only because those films didn't excite me.

What was it like working with Shabana Azmi? Had you seen any of her previous work?

Sendhil: It was nice. I was not aware of her work when I met her. She gave me DVDs of a few of her films and I saw them. She is a fantastic performer and has a huge body of work behind her. My parents are big fans of hers. They were very excited when they heard I am doing a film with her. They came on sets while we were shooting and even got some snaps clicked with her.

How did you sign on to "It's a Wonderful Afterlife"? How was the shooting experience and how was Gurinder? What are your expectations as it releases?

Sendhil: Gurinder knew about me because of "Heroes". She met me in London to talk about the film. I had heard a lot about her and wanted to work with her. She is quite famous in Hollywood. I really

liked the story of the film. It is funny -- a typical Gurinder Chadha film and a complete entertainer. You will laugh throughout the film and forget all your worries.

You play a British Indian police officer. How familiar are you with the British Indian community? Do you think it differs tremendously from the Indian American community?

Sendhil: Yes, I am familiar with the British Indian community. It differs, basically, because of the cultural differences and the way of living in British and American communities. Historically there is a lot of difference between the two. British Indian communities have been there for a long time, three generations in some cases, while Indian American communities are very recent immigrants. Skill sets and outlook is also very different between the two communities.

Rumour has it that you're leaving Heroes. Can you confirm this? Was this necessary at this point?

Sendhil: Yes, I have quit the show as of now. But you never know -- I can return next season of the show! Till then, you will have to wait and watch.

Compiled by Correspondent

Very Healthy, Very Cool.

Coming Soon...