

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Group Art Exhibition

Title: Rooted Creativity-3
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: June 15-26
Time: 12pm-8pm



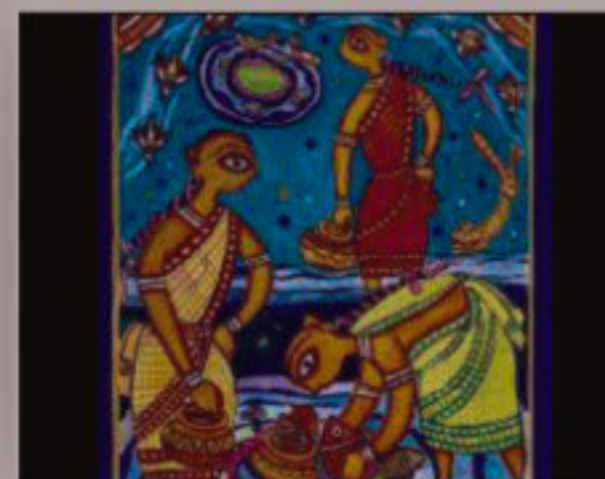
Borsha Boron Utsab 1417

Organiser: Bangladesh Arts Council
Venue: 12 North Gulshan Avenue
Date: June 17-19
Time: Inauguration at 5pm (June 17), from 10 am onwards (June 18-19)



Art Exhibition

Painter: Nikhil Chandra Das
Title: The story of lost painting
Venue: Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 12-26
Time: 11 pm-7 pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Mohammad Fakruzzaman
Venue: Gallery Chittrak, H-21, R-4, Dhanmondi
Date: June 19-27
Time: 10am-8pm



Childhood memories linger on

In conversation with Mamunur Rashid

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

"The fun and frolic of our childhood days is simply amazing," reminisced noted theatre personality Mamunur Rashid. "I believe that the children of this generation cannot even comprehend the sheer joy that we shared with one another in the simplest of ways."

"Going back in time, I remember how every day when I went to school, the first thing I waited was for the bell to ring, so that I could run back home," adds a smiling Rashid. "The sense of freedom was priceless."

"The other thing that we enjoyed was taking a plunge in the river and staying there for the rest of the day, till our eyes turned bloodshot. It was then that the scolding from elders would end the fun for that day. My heart still leaps every time I come across a river and can almost get the feel of splashing and diving in deep cool water."

"During the month of *Jaishta* when juicy fruits were in abundance, it was customary for our uncles to visit us. Soon it was our turn to visit them. Our journey was mostly on bullock carts, which were in fact the easiest means of transport then. Excitement mounted on reaching our *mama bari*, which included mouth-watering dishes and *aam-dudh* (creamy milk and mango) to top it all.

"Kites were an inevitable source of



pleasure for us then too. *Chongo*, a special longish shaped kite, was on top of my list. It is quite popular in Tangail. During my free time I would fly the kite in open pastures. There were times when the kite would break

free in mid air and I would go about looking for it and often return home empty handed and heart-broken.

"But in no way did this hamper my studies. I was comparatively studious and for obvious reasons was my teachers' favourite. I have no memories of being rebuked by the teachers," adds a nostalgic Rashid.

"Cricket was comparatively less popular than football. Nothing could beat a game of football in mud and rain. But I remember playing cricket as well," says the noted actor-director.

"Most of the time we completely lost track of time and invariably got our share of scolding when we returned after sunset. That is how discipline was inculcated in us."

"Though I was destined to join theatre later, I remember watching very few plays and also that with my mother. I would often doze off on her lap after a few monotonous dialogues were delivered. The first theatre that I went to was *Nawab Sirajuddowla*. There were, however, no movie halls in the village Bolla or Paikaj and so I can't remember going to one."

"All said and done, the most memorable times were those that we enjoyed with our cousins. Each season was distinctive and we had boundless fun during the seasonal changes. At the same time, the pleasure of watching the full moon or the dark nights of *amabashya* is deeply etched in my mind."

Ustad Rashid Khan to perform in Dhaka

Renowned Hindustani classic music vocalist Padma Shri Ustad Rashid Khan will perform at a solo concert at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Dhaka on June 17, says a press release. Renowned Indian instrumentalists Mohapatra Nilamadhab, Jyoti Goho and Talwalkar Satyajit Suresh will accompany Khan at that concert. WEB Entertainment Limited, Dhaka is the organiser of the event.

Ustad Rashid Khan belongs to the Rampur-Sahaswan Gharana, and is the great grandson of the *gharana* founder Ustad Inayat Hussain Khan.

He received the Padma Shri, as well as the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2006.

Born in Badayun, Uttar Pradesh on July 1, 1966, he received his initial training from his maternal granduncle, Ustad Nissar Hussain Khan.

Ustad Rashid Khan's renditions stand out for the emotional overtones in his melodic elaboration. Says the ustad, "The emotional content may be in the *alaap*, sometimes while singing the *bandish*, or while giving expression to the meaning of the lyrics." This brings a touch of



Ustad Rashid Khan (centre) during a performance.

modernity to his style, as compared to the older maestros, who placed greater emphasis on technique and skilful execution of difficult passages.

Football Fever

Celebrities on World Cup 2010

Tanveen Sweety

My house in the grip of football fever. I have always been a supporter of Brazil. My family members are also great fans of the Brazilian team. I am hopeful about Brazil winning the World Cup. The game will be more interesting if the archrivals Argentina and Brazil are in the finals. I have already prepared to watch the games with my family. While the game is on, we enjoy the crunchy munchies like *muri*, *chanachur* followed by *beef* and *khichuri*. Often my friends drop by and we watch the games together.



Short Take

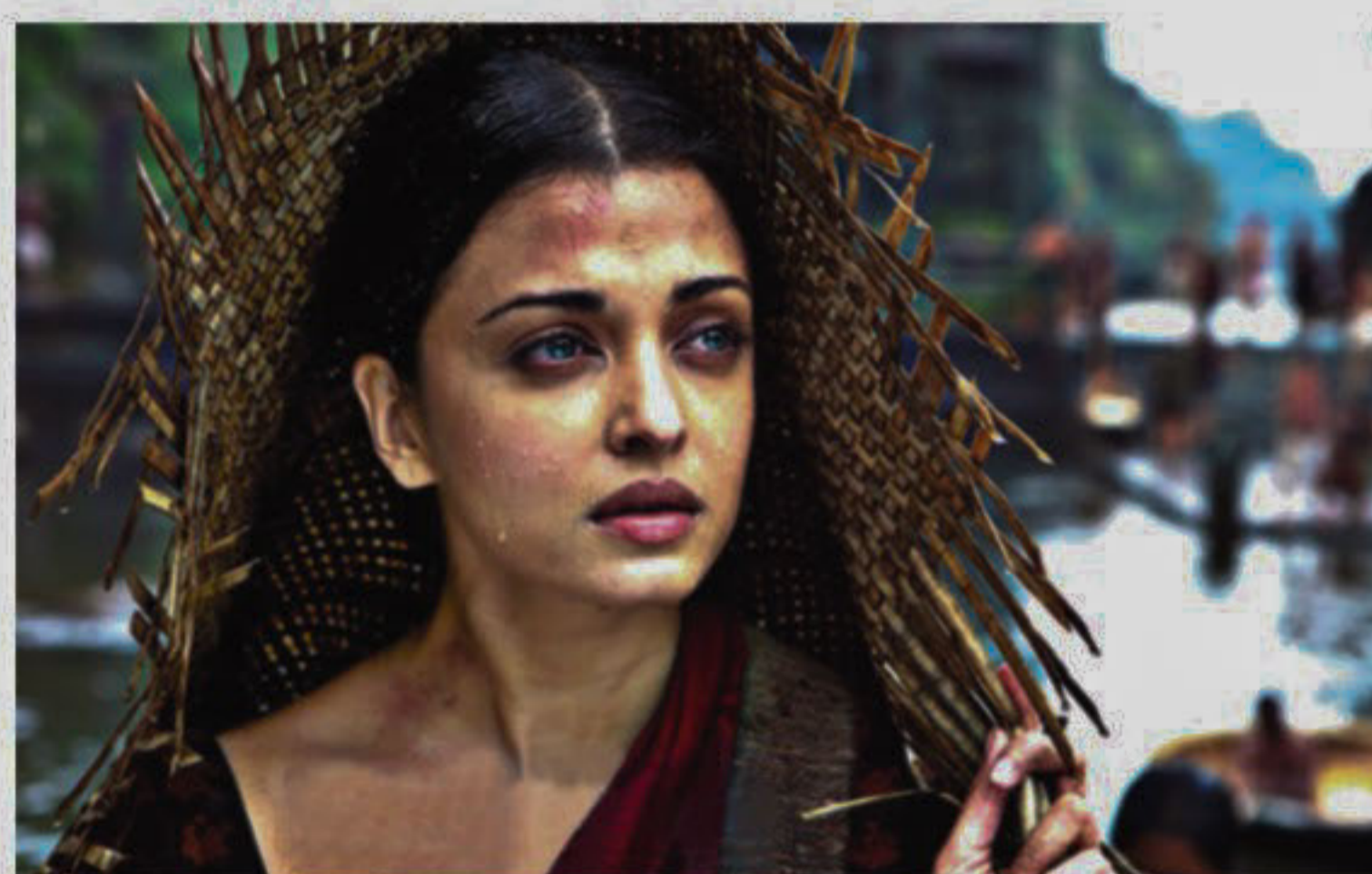
"I do not play Sita in Raavan": Aishwarya Rai

After winning the Miss World title in 1997, Aishwarya Rai was planning to go ahead with her studies and become an architect but destiny and Mani Ratnam had different plans for her.

The 36-year-old, who stars in Ratnam's latest film "Raavan," says she wasn't sure of becoming an actress until Ratnam asked her to act in "Iruvar," her debut film.

"After my Miss World win I wasn't sure which career path I should choose. I was planning to complete my studies in architecture. But then one fine day I was told that Mani Ratnam would like to discuss a role with me and that was it. It was some Godeend message."

"I could not believe that Mani Ratnam wanted to work with me. He is an institution in himself and his cinema speaks volumes. I couldn't have just said no to him and that is how my journey in filmhood began," Aishwarya said in a recent interview.



Aishwarya Rai in "Raavan."

The actress, who last worked with Ratnam in "Guru (2006)," says the filmmaker "spoils you as an actor" and unleashes "your talent."

"With Mani it is being the student of art wanting to learn more. He ignites the hunger in you as an actor,

wanting to do something better with every shot," Aishwarya said.

The actress who plays the role of Ragini in "Raavan" slated to release on June 18 also clarified that her character is not a contemporary take on Sita.

"I think all the stories can be drawn parallel to our epics because at the end it is all about inter-personal relationship. My character Ragini is Mani's perception of this strong willed woman abducted by Beera. And the story is about the dynamics amongst Ragini, her husband and Beera," she said.

Her co-star and husband Abhishek could not agree less as he added, Raavan is about who is right and who is wrong and above all who decides about it. "Raavan" is a story about this villain from his perspective but then who are we to judge that he is actually a villain?"

Abhishek was all praise for Aishwarya, saying, "I think 'Raavan' is by far Aishwarya's best performance. Hats off to her for doing such a difficult role with such élan. She aptly balanced grace and dignity while portraying a strong willed woman."

Source: Internet

Desh TV to air special programme on Che

A CORRESPONDENT

Today marks the 82nd birthday of Ernesto Che Guevara, commonly known as "Che." On the occasion, Desh TV will air "Daak Diye Jaye," a special programme on Che, at 6:25 pm tonight.

Born on June 14, 1928 in Argentina, Che was a revolutionary, physician, author, intellectual, guerrilla leader, a military theorist and a major figure in the Cuban Revolution (1959) that overthrew a dictatorship and established socialism. In 1967, while leading guerrilla operations in Bolivia, he was captured. Che was executed on October 9, 1967. Since his death, his stylised visage has become a ubiquitous counter-cultural symbol and global insignia within popular culture.

Apart from rare footages of Che, the programme will also include discussions on the icon by Mofidul Haque, Anu Mohammad, Mamunur Rashid, Zahid Reza Noor and others. Shimul Mustafa will recite and Kaniz Subarna will perform a song on the programme. Amjad Sujon is the producer of the show.



Freida Pinto's part in the Israel-Palestine dispute

American filmmaker Julian Schnabel, known for tackling provocative subjects in his work, is now prepared to take on one of the world's most controversial topics: the Israel-Palestine dispute. And he is recruiting Indian actress Freida Pinto to help him do it.

Harvey Weinstein's The Weinstein Co will distribute Schnabel's upcoming film "Miral," which stars Pinto as the title character.

The story begins with the founding of a Palestinian orphanage for refugees in 1948, during the first *intifada*, and then jumps ahead a few decades to tell the story of Miral, a young girl raised in the orphanage.

The screenplay was written by Rula Jebreal, and was based on her 2004 novel "The Road Flower Miral."

Source: Internet



Travolta donates to Nelson Mandela Children's Fund

AP, Johannesburg

John Travolta and wife Kelly Preston donated 70,000 rand (about \$10,000) to the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund on Saturday, during their visit to South Africa, and spent some time singing and dancing with children the foundation has supported.

The children treated the "Hairspray" star, Preston and their daughter Ella to a drum concert and serenaded them with a poem titled, "Eyes in the sky, foot on the ground." Travolta later did a few dance steps with the children.

Casually dressed in a black jacket and a white T-shirt, Travolta talked about the importance of family life.

"Children keep you humble," he said. "Children keep you grounded."

South Africa's first black president set up the fund to provide a variety of services for children, including support for street children and the children of refugees. Its plans include a children's hospital to be built in Johannesburg.

In a recorded message played at Saturday's event, Mandela urged people to protect society's "most valued asset, its children." Travolta on Saturday urged other stars to use their status to contribute to Mandela's legacy.

Travolta, a spokesman for the Australian airline Qantas, will stay a few days in South Africa to support the Australian World Cup team.