

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

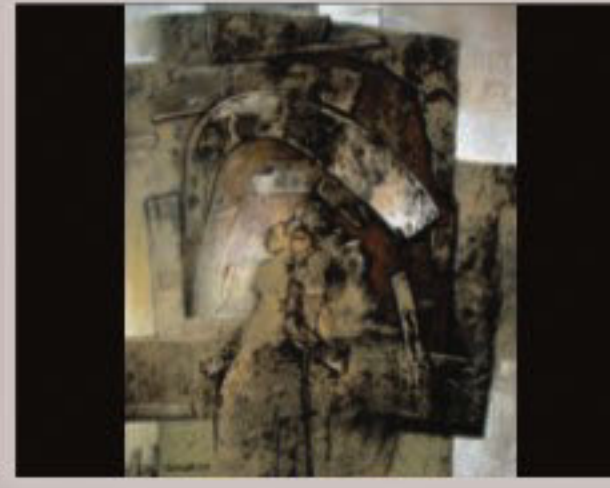
### Solo Art Exhibition

Title: The Wing  
Artist: Murtaja Baseer  
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, R-16 Sector 4, Uttara  
Date: September 25-October 10  
Time: 10am-8pm



### Group Art Exhibition

Venue: Radius Centre, Bay's Galleria  
Date: September 24-October 8  
Time: 10am-8pm



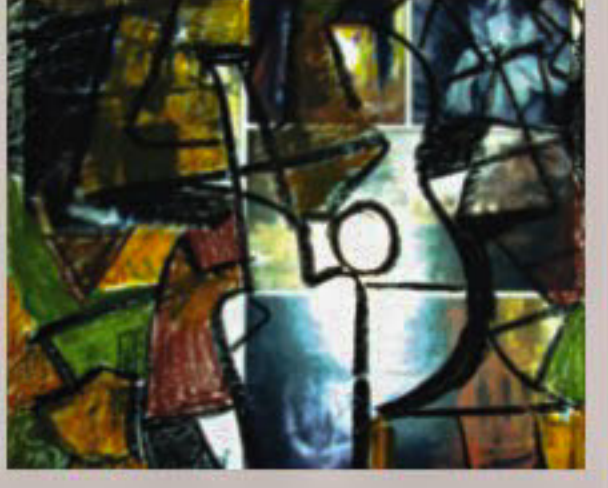
### Sharat Utshab

Organiser: Chhayanaut  
Venue: Bakultala, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU  
Date: October 1  
Time: 7am



### Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Over Loaded  
Artist: Ayesha Siddiqui (Pakistan)  
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (New), Dhanmondi  
Date: Sept 30-Oct 4  
Time: 3-8pm



## In Focus

# In need of a facelift: Adibashi Mini Museum



Among the attractions for the visitors are tools and objects used in agriculture and fishing, musical instruments and ornaments.

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Adibashi Mini Museum, housed at the CARITAS regional office, is a treasure trove of antiques collected from different areas of the greater Mymensingh region over the last 20 years.

The museum opened its door in 1991 under the initiative of CARITAS to preserve everyday items once used by the indigenous people of Mymensingh, Sherpur, Jamalpur,

Tangail, Netrokona and Kishoreganj.

Among the attractions for the visitors are tools and objects used in agriculture, fishing and harvesting. On display also are ornaments used on traditional occasions both in the past and at present.

Maria Goretti, the keeper of the museum, pointed out that the museum houses some 150 items including traditional jewellery. The aim is to acquaint the younger generation with the diverse culture of greater Mymensingh region. The

ornaments and musical instruments once used widely, makes us nostalgic and fuel interest in our traditional arts, said Maria.

Among the exquisite objects on display are a *Kakshi* (a pot used by the Cooch community to store beverage), *Dikha* (a vessel used at social functions and rituals), *Umak* (a kind of blanket made from the bark of herbs by the Garo), *Thura* (baskets), *Nathuk* (small drum), *Dama* (big drum), *Adhuri* (a musical instrument made of buffalo horn) and *Fong* (a curved

vessel).

Ornaments like *Bala*, *Khakkashal* (worn particularly during dances), *Thanka* (arm bracelet), *Righmachhu* and *Danga Sara* (dance jewellery) also draw attention.

The collection at the museum also includes *Millam Spree* (shield and sword), *Kimma* (memorial post) and *Burang* (hut on posts in the hilly areas).

Dhires Chiram, who is associated with CARITAS' education and development programme, said that the museum's collection is limited but the concerned department can expand it. There is no *adibashi* (indigenous) museum in Mymensingh district, so initiatives should be taken to enrich this establishment, Dhires added.

Polinus Marak who seeks to promote indigenous traditions told The Daily Star that many antiques of the ethnic community can be found scattered in Mymensingh region and if collected with proper initiatives, a rich museum could be established here. Every article should have detailed description so that the visitors can get a clear idea about the collections, Polinus added. An experienced curator should be appointed to run the museum, he said.

Theofil Nokrek, regional director of CARITAS told this correspondent that under the 'cultural preservation' programme, the museum would be expanded in near future with more antiques, everyday objects and a modern infrastructure. "We have already undertaken such a programme and adibashi people have responded positively, which encourages us greatly," he said.



# "I don't know how many box office hits I have" -- Aishwarya Rai

After "Raavan", Aishwarya Rai Bachchan stars in another bilingual "Endhiran" in Tamil and "Robot" in Hindi -- opposite Tamil superstar Rajinikanth.

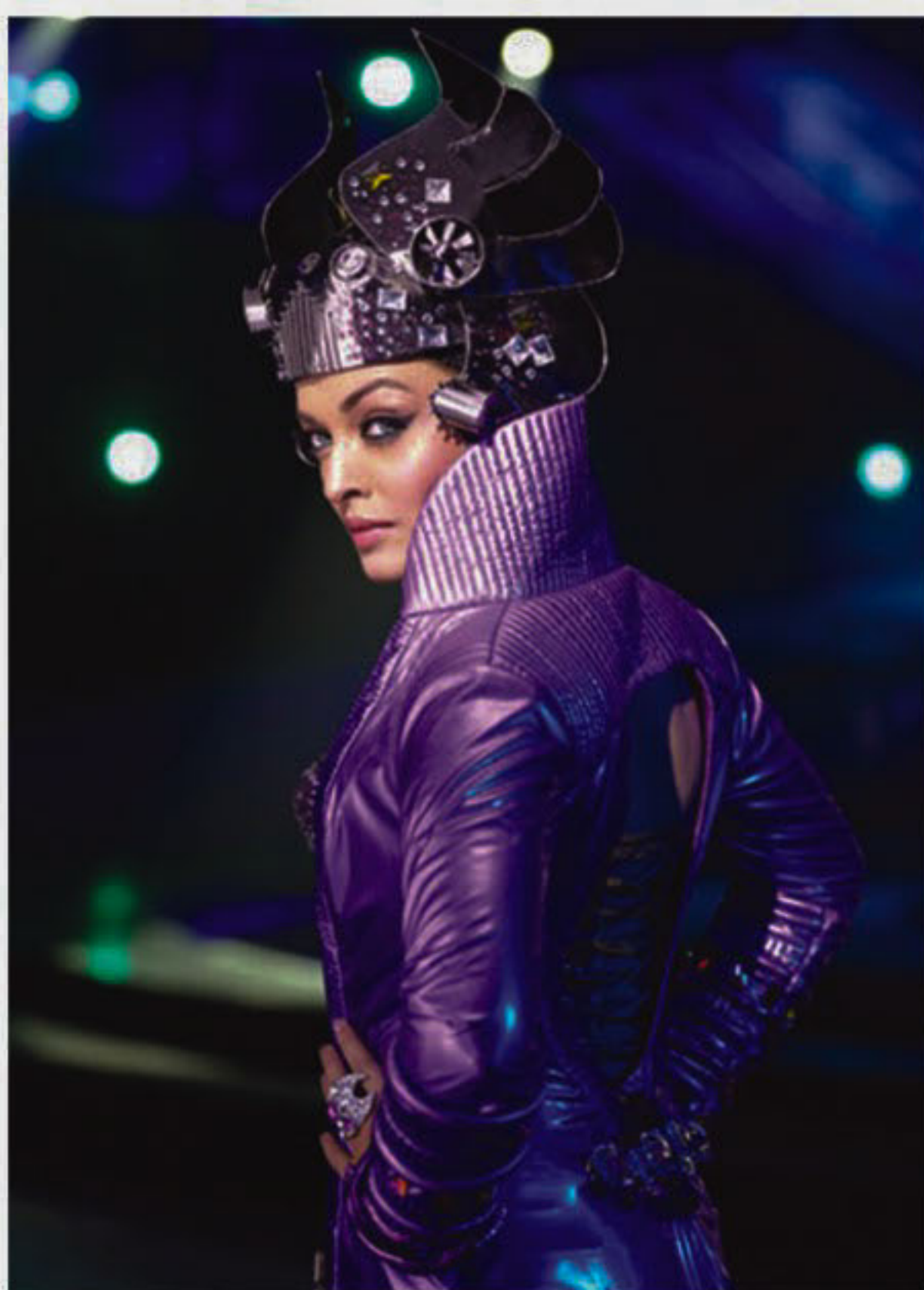
In a recent interview the actress talked about the big budget film, working with Rajinikanth and more:

Rajinikanth is almost the age of your father-in-law Amitabh Bachchan. And you are romancing him on screen.

Aishwarya: When I started my career, I worked in "Iruvar" (with Mohanlal) and tried to dispel all the conventions about acting at the very beginning of my career. I did not take up "Iruvar" and "Jeans" because I was not getting work in Hindi films. I did them because I genuinely respected those filmmakers and the kind of movies they make.

I am not in the industry to become a standard heroine for someone, or to belong to some camp.

Shankar has proved himself as a director. Everybody knows his work and vision. I am very happy with the outcome. Rajni Sir is a legend. It



is truly wonderful working with him.

How much does a film's failure affect you, especially one where you worked hard,

like "Raavan"?

Aishwarya: We try to do new things every time. We don't know what will work. If we know the winning formula

and keep making only that kind of movies, then creatively it won't be as exciting for everyone who belongs to the world of cinema.

We are entertainers and our biggest verdict is from the audience. We are obviously open to their criticism and strive to entertain the next time. When you set about to make a film, nobody ever dreams that the vision will not be accepted. The important part is to make that effort and not slide back.

I have played so many characters so far and I don't know how many box office hits I have. I am fortunate my career is not charted literally by numbers or box office results.

How different is your character in "Robot"?

Aishwarya: In one year I got to work in four very different films. I got to do "Raavan" and "Raavanan", "Robot", "Action Replayy" and "Guzaarish". As an actor, it's very exciting. I haven't been part of the conventional commercial genre. So for me in that sense it is new to do a livewire character of someone who is bubbly and fun

through the film. "Robot" is an entertaining movie.

What was the best thing about working with Rajinikanth?

Aishwarya: Just like all of you, I have seen his work and have read about his work. I have read how fascinated his viewers are. I have seen how enthralled his audiences are. He is full-on entertaining and to see that in person every single day and to see how simply he does it has been an experience. He comes regularly to the sets with such humility and quietly surprises and fascinates us during the shots, it brings a smile to your face.

Will you ever do a small budget film?

Aishwarya: True, I have done a lot of big budget films. But at the same time, I have also done "Chokher Bali" and "Raincoat", which had conservative budgets. So I think this question is redundant. I don't say yes to a movie asking the budget of the film. My criteria of saying yes to a film are the director, the script, and the character.

Compiled by Correspondent

## Bangladeshi short film "The Professionals" to be screened at three int'l fests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi short film "The Professionals" has been selected to participate at three international film festivals -- two in the USA and the other in the UK. "The Professionals" will be screened at Chicago South Asian Film Festival, USA; 25th Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival, USA and 18th Raindance Film Festival, UK.

The film, by emerging filmmaker Oniket Alam, will have its first screening at the Chicago festival on October 2. It will be screened in Fort Lauderdale on October 5 and at the Raindance on October 8.

Cal Jahan has written the story of the film, featuring Aref Syed as the protagonist. The story follows Joshim (Syed), a mid-level

employee at an industry. A doctor's negligence leaves Joshim crippled for life. A single act of carelessness by one professional destroys another's dreams and hopes. A chance encounter gives Joshim an opportunity to take revenge. Will he take the high road, or seek revenge?

"Responsibility, inspiration and persistence are the three main themes that I tried to play with in the film," said Oniket.

The film has been shot in HDV format at different locations in Satkhira and Khulna. Original running time of the film is 12 minutes 58 seconds. The film in Bangla has French and English subtitles.

"The Professionals" will have a special screening in Bangladesh after its participation at the festivals.



## Encouraging future orators, leaders

### Debate competition "Campus Parliament" to go on air on ATN Bangla

A CORRESPONDENT

Parliamentary debate competition "Campus Parliament" will be aired soon on ATN Bangla. Directed by Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron, students from both public and private universities, including medical and technical colleges will take part in the competition.

Debaters will participate in the competition as either the government or opposition in this style of debate. The government side consists of the Prime Minister, Minister and an MP, while the opposition team is formed with the leader

of the opposition, deputy leader and an MP.

Meanwhile, invitations have been forwarded to different universities to submit their respective teams for participation in the competition. If a university doesn't receive invitation from ATN Bangla, it can send application to the director, "Campus Parliament", ATN Bangla, WASA Bhaban, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka to take part in the competition.

Thirty-two universities will compete after an initial screening. Both the champion and runner-up teams with the best debaters will be given cash prizes, trophies, crests and other prizes.

## Capturing an era

### Book on Liberation War launched



Discussants pose with the book at the launching programme.

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

"Jagai-Madhai-er Muktijuddho", a book on the Liberation War, was unveiled last Monday. The writer, Moinul Kabir, a freedom fighter of Dinajpur, used his personal experiences of the war in 1971 in his literary work.

Moni Mela, a Dinajpur-based cultural organisation for children, arranged the book launch at its auditorium. Mohammad Anwarul Haque, Principal of Mainul Islam High School, launched the book as chief guest.

A discussion was held on the book. AKM Rezaur Rahman, president of Moni Mela,

chaired the discussion.

The speakers at the discussion said that Bangladeshi freedom fighters wrested victory from Pakistan in 1971 after nine months of fierce fighting. However, with the help of its collaborators, the Pakistani occupying army left a trail of destruction in the country when they lost the war.

Such books would acquaint the people with a momentous time in Bangladesh's history, the speaker added.

Among others, poet Mahmud Aktar and Nurul Motin Shaikat, general secretary of Moni Mela, spoke at the programme.

PHOTO: STAR