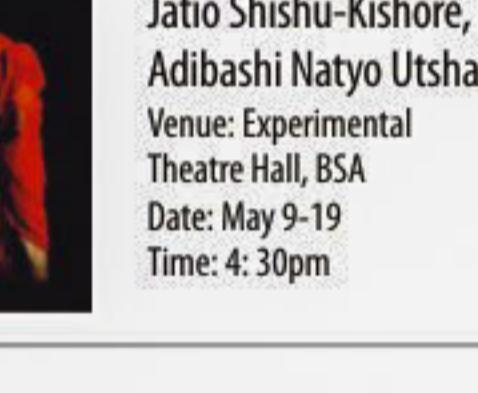
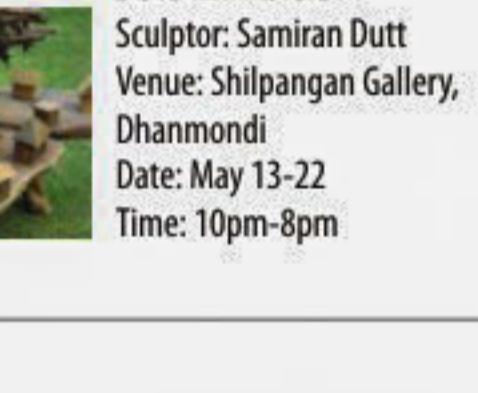
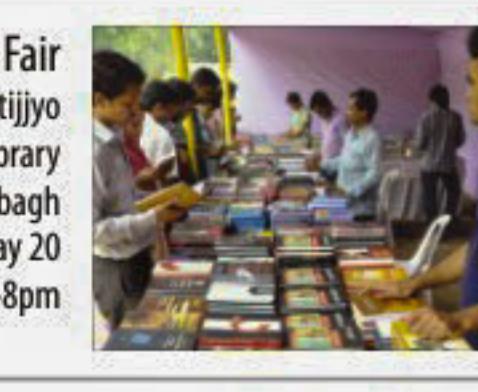


WHAT'S ON

CANNES 2011
Israeli director turns camera inward

AFP, Cannes

Israeli director Joseph Cedar, whose film about the army withdrawal from southern Lebanon garnered an Oscar nomination, said Sunday he was looking inward with his current Cannes entry.

"Footnote", one of 20 features vying for the Palme d'Or at the world's biggest film festival, tells the story of a father-son pair of Talmudic scholars locked in a decades-long rivalry.

Set in the rarefied world of academia, the film is a far cry from the gritty realism of "Beaufort", his 2007 soldier

movie which captured the best director prize at the Berlin film festival and was shortlisted for an Academy Award.

Cedar said the story of an embittered researcher who sees himself as a purist rejected by the establishment and his relationship with his ambitious son arose during time he spent with the Talmud department of Hebrew University.

"I met stubborn academics on an epic scale, people who had been working on an esoteric, obscure area of research for their entire life, afraid to complete it because there might be a mistake somewhere and as a result never publishing anything, and rivalries that had been going on for generations, that were violent and harsh, really beyond anything I had heard of," he told reporters.

Shlomo Bar Aba, a well-known comedian in Israel who plays the curmudgeonly father, said it was refreshing to present an Israeli film to the world's critics that did not directly address the Middle East conflict.

"It reflects how much we desire normality in our lives in Israel," Ashkenazi said, telling reporters that a member of his family was a Talmudic scholar killed in the Holocaust.

"We lack compassion in the place where we come from but we hope it will come back."

A jury led by US actor Robert De Niro will award the Palme d'Or next Sunday.

SOARING IMAGINATION
Exhibition of Samiran Dutt's wooden sculpture

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Samiran Dutt is an emerging sculptor who has been committed to wielding a hammer and chisel. His works are intimately connected with nature. The artist uses twigs, branches, trunks, dry shrubbery, roots, coconut shells, brushwood and varied natural fibres in his sculptural works. Dutt's works depict birds, human figures, aquatic species etc. Some of his creations also function as domestic objects like chair, mirrors, windows and more. With his imaginative touch these objects come to life, demonstrating passion, joy, woes, conscience and courage.

Dutt's fourth solo exhibition, titled "Bottola Bazar" is now on at Shilpangan Art Gallery, Dhanmondi in Dhaka.

Samiran Dutt is an artist who discovers possibilities and beauty in unnoticed or ignored objects. His creations remind us about plentiful resources in nature. Tranquility and imagination are two significant aspects of his works.

Nature is Dutt's treasure trove. He collects his raw materials in the course of his daily activity, as he goes about his routine work, and sometimes even collects them from very remote areas. He lives in Sonargaon, just outside Dhaka, and maintains a tiny atelier. He has four assistants who help him with hammer, saw and axe.

Dutt has used dry twigs, discarded roots and insect-eaten stumps. He has given these inanimate objects a new spell of life in the process of forming art. The works on display at the exhibition are not shaped appropriately; neither do they have a polished look. For the most part, the artist has kept the objects as they were found in nature -- one of his main traits. He is a collector with an impressive eye; finding pieces of wood that have huge potential.

The exhibition features works of all sizes and shapes. Also included are everyday items like penholders, flower vase, table, bench, TV stand, candle stand and more.

The specialty of Dutt's works is that though the pieces have an uncompleted, raw appearance and uneven surface, they have an eternal touch of novelty, where he represents his belief, impressions and views.

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