

WHAT'S ON

Baishakhi Boimela O Sahitya Sammelan
Organiser: Sahitya Bazar
Venue: Central Public Library
Premises, Shahbagh
Date: April 19-23

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Peace in Times of Disquiet
Artist: Mohammad Iqbal
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Diamond
Date: April 6-19

Art Exhibition
Title: Eminent Printmakers of Bengal
Venue: Gallery Chitra, Dharmond
Date: April 19-20

Group Art Exhibition
Title: The Voice of Time
Venue: Institute of Art & Culture, H-2, R-1/A, Gulshan-1
Date: April 17-26
Time: 12pm-9pm

Musical Soiree
Title: Bajao Apun Sur
Venue: Chhayanut
Shankriti Bhaban, H-72, R-15A, Dharmond
Date: April 20

Photography Exhibition
Title: Butterflies of Bangladesh
Venue: Sirk Gallery, H-58, R-15A(New), Dharmond
Date: April 15-21
Time: 3pm-8pm

An Evening of Rock Music
Band: Sois
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Rd-2, H-24, Dharmond

Theatre
Play: Bheela
Troupe: Dept. of Theatre, DU
Venue: Natmandal, DU
Date: April 17-20
Time: 7pm

Of childhood and spirituality

Mohammad Iqbal's latest exhibition

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Mohammad Iqbal appeared in the Dhaka art scene in the mid 1990s with his strong philosophical themes and experimental paintings. He was recognised for his skilled drawings and impulsive spirit. His protagonists on canvas were usually exploited people and spirituality. The difference between the economic structures of different communities leads him into portraying their lifestyles. From the onset, his works have mirrored the bitter realities of the society. His paintings effectively touched the heart of art enthusiasts because of his sensible approach.

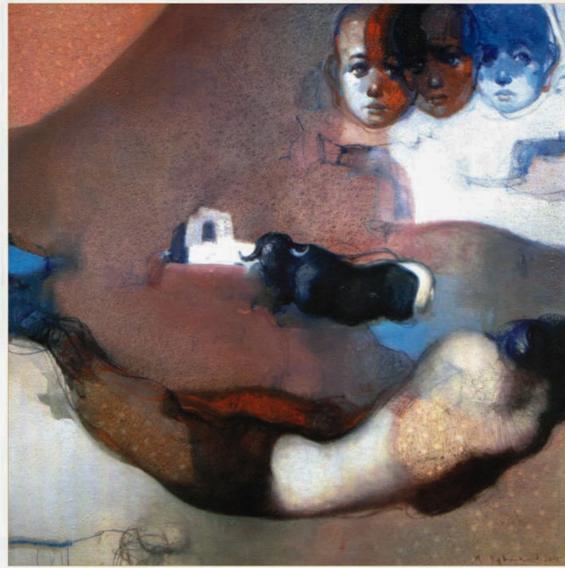
Mohammad Iqbal's current solo painting exhibition, titled "Peace in the Times of Disquiet", is now on at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhaka.

Figures have taken a prominent place in Iqbal's paintings. Agony seems to get the focus. Iqbal has been working on the lives of Bauls and sages. It should be mentioned that the artist firstly concentrates on his theme, than he pours his labour to other technical aspects. The Baul way of life and the philosophy attract him the most as he finds spirituality and sanctity in them.

At the current exhibition, a number of paintings on the theme are on display. He has painted bearded faces, along with red clothing, beads, horns of buffalo, horses, talisman and trident.

Iqbal feels as a painter he has some responsibility to society and he wants to open the eyes of the people around him. The artist also likes to paint children, whom he regards as overlooked and often uncared for. Iqbal has portrayed many children's faces in approximately the same disposition. Through the oval shaped faces, the artist seeks to convey children's dreams, yearnings and the artist focuses on eyes.

Iqbal did his Ph.D in oil painting and most of



A painting by Mohammad Iqbal.

his paintings are oil-based. His works are more technique-based and demonstrate a sense of craftsmanship.

It is very difficult to label his works as abstract expressionism; most of his works carry different

forms and the objects. Many abstract, semi-abstract forms are also noticeable in some of his paintings. The figures sometimes come in full forms or semi forms.

The exhibition ends today.

A radical approach to depiction of the Liberation War

Dinguli Kemon Chhilo premieres at Shilpakala Academy

JAMIL MAHMUD

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy premiered a conceptual play, "Dinguli Kemon Chhilo", on the Liberation War. To depict the immensity of the war, the academy has chosen a form known as "environmental theatre" for the production.

The play premiered on April 17 at the vacant space in front of the National Art Gallery. Ashish Khandakar, known as an expert in the theatre form, has conceptualised and directed the play.

Environmental theatre places a production in an environment similar to the one in which the play is set. Khandakar only used the space to create an ambience of a battlefield. He used a 5000 square feet area as the performing space. The National Art Gallery was used as the backdrop, while the audience was seated at and around the Coffee House.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs, Advocate Pramod Mankin, inaugurated the show as chief guest. Eminent artist Shahabuddin was present as special guest, while director general of the academy Liaquat Ali Lucky presided over the inaugural session.

The attending guests lauded such effort by the academy to uphold the spirit of the Liberation War.



The play highlights the war and its impact on the masses.

The play also marked the Mujibnagar Day (April 17).

The play highlighted the war and its impact on the masses. The story hinges on people in a border area and their lives during the war. It also zooms in on a group of outlaws and the effects of the war on them.

The story, a compilation by Khandakar, starts with the initial phase of the war, in March 1971. It chronologically follows the incidents: the fleeing of common people across the border, brutality of the Pakistani army, emergence of the collaborators and

finally emergence of the freedom fighters and independence.

Khandakar borrowing elements from different literary works based on the war. Hasan Azizul Haque's "Phera", some diaries and books on the war are the sources of the play, according to the director.

Although the play ran for over two hours, the director asserted that it would be shortened soon. A group of 50 actors from different troupes enacted roles in the play. All the conceptual works including the sound and light designs are also done by Khandakar.

The director deserves kudos for his endeavour to execute such a large canvas: as part of environmental theatre, he first had to conceive the storyline and then accumulate ideas concerning the space. Using a couple of vehicles, setting fire and blasting of explosives were efforts to give an authentic glimpse of a battlefield.

However, there were lacunae as well. Each and every corner of the large place was not appropriately designed. As the play was staged at an open space, sometimes the performers and spectators found themselves together. As a result, it was hard to distinguish between the audience and performers.

One could also have done with a brochure listing the cast and crew of the play.

Reviving the heritage of Jamdani

Robi launches competition on motifs

A CORRESPONDENT

Mobile phone operator Robi Axiata Limited and Shanto Mariam University of Creative Technology launched a joint contest in the city to enable the youth to discover the wonders of Jamdani, uphold its heritage, as well as preserve it for future.

Managing Director and CEO of Robi, Michael Kuehner, officially launched the competition. Professor Dr. Shamsul Haq, Vice Chancellor of Shanto Mariam University; Chief Marketing Officer Pradeep Shrivastava; Chief Financial officer Mahtabuddin Ahmed; Chief Human Resources Officer Matul Islam Nowshad and Chief Strategy Officer Yoshishige Hasegawa were also present at the event. Internationally acclaimed Bangladeshi fashion designer Bibi Russell was guest of honour at the event.

While launching the competition, Michael Kuehner said, "Jamdani is a beautiful heritage of Bangladesh. Robi is proud to be working for its revival and popularity. Robi has already introduced initiatives for empowering youth to display their talent. This initiative is an addition to this endeavour."

The competition will revolve around reviving Jamdani motifs and creating a full range of dress designs, accessories and items around it. The initiative is believed to modernise Jamdani in terms of motifs, colour variations and different uses, yet stay deeply rooted to traditions. Furthermore, the initiative is also intended to inspire the weavers.

The initiative is not a commercial venture, rather a pursuit of the social responsibility of Robi to discover the talents of the youth, supported by technology like mobile data services, which allows them to revive old traditional industry of Bangladesh and get global accolades.

Interested participants can submit their designs (as many as they want) in two categories: Jamdani Costumes and Jamdani Accessories. The submission should be made as a jpg (sketch or photograph) file of the Jamdani design(s) that the participant worked on, along with a short description of that particular design(s). The file should be sent to the following e-mail account: jamdani@robi.com.bd, along with the participant's name, location, age, category (design) and contact number.



Tagore's 'Falguni' in Sylhet

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

A packed audience enjoyed the dance-drama "Falguni" of Rabindranath Tagore at Sylhet auditorium on Sunday evening. Debashish Roy and Sudeb Guha Thakurta from the Music Institute of Kolkata-Dakshinee conducted the presentation.

The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre at the High Commission of India, Dhaka organised the staging as part of the ongoing joint celebrations

between India and Bangladesh of the 150th birth anniversary of the Kabirguru. Artists of the Dakshinee staged the dance-drama.

The caste included, Debashish Roy, Chaudhury, Sibusish Das, Debarshi Ray, Shekhar Chowdhury and others.

In the dance team were Mahua Biswas, Debopriya, Srabonti, Debaleen Bhattacharya and Rakhi Bhabra while songs were rendered by Shreya guha Thakurta, Srovonti Bondopadhyay and others.

The performers showcased the significance of destruction of the natural greenery during winter since the transformation of the foliage into full blossom during spring revives pleasant experiences.

Prior to the staging, a brief discussion was held with the City Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran as chief guest while the Assistant High Commissioner of India-Somnath Ghosh and Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet-Khan Mohammad Bilal also addressed the gathering.

Iffat Ara Dewan's latest album launched



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted singer Iffat Ara Dewan's latest album, "Hoyto Tomar Jonno", was launched yesterday at Bengal Shilpalya, Dharmond in the capital. Featuring aduhnik Bangla songs, the album contains 10 tracks originally recorded by Manna Dey, Shyamol Mitra, Satinath Mukhopadhyay, Sujata Sarkar, Subir Sen, Talat Mahmood and Pintu Bhattacharya.

Sudhin Dasgupta, Pulak Bandyopadhyay, Provas Dey, Satil Chowdhury, Satinath Mukhopadhyay, Gouri Prasanna Majumdar, Subodh Ganguly, Pabitra Mitra, Shyamol Mitra, Mintu Ghosh and Nachiketa Ghosh wrote and composed the recorded songs. Durbadal Chattopadhyay has directed music for the latest album.

The tracks of the album include "Hoyto Tomar Jonno", "Jodi Kichhu Amarey Shudhao", "Ekono Akashey Chand", "Tomar Shoneye Hothat Dekha", "Ero Shur Ar Eto Gaan", "Je Mala-Shukaye", "Shesh Dekha Shei Raat-e" and more.

Editor of the daily Prothom Alo Matuir Rahman unveiled the album. Iffat Ara Dewan, director general of Bengal Foundation, Luva Nahid Chowdhury and others were present at the event.

On the occasion, Iffat Ara Dewan performed songs both from the album and several other contemporary songs.

Star out of stardom



Shah Rukh (R) at Yale.

ABDUL MATIN

Shah Rukh Khan, a Bollywood superstar, was detained at White Plains Airport in New York by US immigration for an hour and half when he arrived there in a private plane on April 12, 2012 to deliver a lecture at the Yale University where he was honoured as a Chubb Fellow. He was allowed to go only after his hosts intervened and took up the matter with the Department of Homeland Security in Washington.

At Yale, Shah Rukh Khan was apparently annoyed. He started his speech jokingly by referring to the incident. He said, "It is nice to be here finally! I was detained at the airport for an hour and half, as always...Whenever I feel arrogant about myself, I take a trip to America...the immigration guys kick the star out of stardom!"

I was in New York City when this incident occurred. I got the information first from my daughter Usha who attended the ceremony at the Yale University. This is the second time Khan was detained by the US immigration. The last time it happened to him was at Newark Airport in 2009.

Peter Vrooman, a spokesperson of the US Embassy in India immediately issued a statement apologising for the incident. "Please allow me on behalf of our diplomatic mission in India to apologise if Mr. Khan experienced an inconvenience or delay in White Plains, New York, on way to Yale University." The State Department also issued a similar statement. Security experts explained that Khan was a victim of a random selection process.

In the past, several Indian dignitaries were detained at US airports. Former Indian Ambassador Meera Shankar was frisked by a security agency in December 2010. According to some reports, she was singled out because she was wearing a sari. US officials again apologised and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton promised that such incidents would not recur. In 2009, US Continental Airlines apologised for frisking former Indian President Dr. Abul Kalam before he boarded a flight to the States.

IFVIPs like Dr. Abul Kalam and Khan could be harassed by US immigration/security personnel, what can happen to ordinary people like us?

Well, I was detained three times by the US Immigration. Every time the officer apologised for the inconvenience. This time I was told that there was confusion about my name. I found out from the Internet that that there was an Afghan suspect named Abdul Matin who was detained in Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. It is quite probable that every time I pass through immigration, they make sure that I am not the Afghan suspect! I wonder whether the Afghan suspect would ever travel to the United States using the same name!

At one time I felt very bad being detained by immigration every time I came to the US. Now I feel a little better after having seen the cases of Khan and Dr. Abul Kalam. After all, I happen to belong to a select group of VIPs now!

Shakespeare said, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any name would smell as sweet." He would have perhaps re-written this famous quote if he had travelled to the United States of America in the 21st century!

Dr. Abdul Matin is a former Chief Engineer of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission.

RAGE RECORDS presents two albums on Pahela Baishakh

A CORRESPONDENT

Audio Production House Rage Records launched two albums on April 16. The launching programme was held at a local restaurant at Gulshan. On the occasion singer De Corter released his debut album "Jiggasha" and singer SK Bappy debuted his released album "Ektu Bhalobashtey". "Jiggasha" is based on modern songs and "Ektu Bhalobashtey" is based on Hip Hop. Both the albums are now available across Bangladesh.

The ceremony was well attended by the owner of Rage Records Adnan Karim along with journalists from the print and electronic media.



Guests at the album launch.



11:20	Business and Finance	06:30	Dur Durantey
12:10	Bangla Feature Film	09:45	Style & Fashion
06:15	Amra Korbo Joy	11:55	Drama: Jorashanker Golpo
08:00	Drama Serial: Not Out		
11:00	Drama: Mon Shomolbon		Diganta TV
		11:30	Diganta Omushandhan
		03:30	Gaaner Prohor
		06:30	Karnophulir Teere
		09:40	Drama Serial: Choshma Motin
		11:05	Music Hour (Live)
			Maaranga Television
		10:02	Bangla Feature Film
		05:30	Amazing Animals
		06:30	Char Deyal-er Kheia
		08:00	Tele-film: Bishal Rupali Parda
		11:00	Tomay Gaan Shorob
			Fox Movies
		01:55	Father of the Bride Part I
		03:45	The House Bunny
		05:25	Are We Done Yet
		09:00	You Don't Mess with The

abc radio FM 89.2	10:00	Morning Express	
06:00	Bhorer Janajaly	12:00	My Time
09:00	Mukhorito Jibonoy	01:00	No Tension
12:00	Darun Duppury	04:00	Dhaka Calling
05:00	Dawana Bhabey	09:30	High Rider
05:00	Shourbhataras	01:00	Back to Back music
07:00	Shajer Maya	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6	
09:00	Raat-er Akashey	08:00	Good Morning Dhaka
11:00	Gejper Shesh Nei	12:00	Today's Adda
Radio Footy	06:00	U Tam	
07:30	Hells Dhaka	07:00	Telby Tai Hok

Bipashar Othithi on BANGLAVISION at 09:00pm
Celebrity Talk Show
Guest: Azizul Hakim

Homeland on Fox Movies at 10:50pm
Genre: Drama/Mystery
Cast: Claire Danes, Damian Lewis

Mon Shomikhhok on ATN BANGLA at 11:00pm
Single Episode TV Play
Cast: Rawnak Hassan, Nadia

11:30	Ekushey-er Business	Zahan	
05:40	Sports Plus	10:50	Homeland
07:50	Drama	HBO	
09:30	Ekushey-er Chokh	03:40	Liar Liar
10:10	Tobuo Badhon	05:30	The Dilemma
		07:50	Head of State
		09:55	Jonah Hex
		11:40	Bangkok Dangerous
			Star World
		11:30	Desperate Housewives
		02:30	Supernatural
		03:30	Missing
		10:30	Unforgettable
		11:30	Joey
			National Geographic Channel
		03:30	Snake Wranglers
		05:30	Dangerous Encounters
		08:30	I Predator
		09:30	Fight Science
		10:30	Bruce Lee Lives
			Discovery Channel
		02:30	Man Vs. Wild
		03:30	Machines of Malice
		08:30	Wild China
		10:30	I Shouldn't Be Alive

ATN BANGLA	Boishakhi TV
08:40pm	Chand Phul Amabostha
09:20pm	Red Dragon to Rajanigandha
CHANNEL i	Rtv
09:35pm	Bheto Bahr
ntv	09:50pm
08:15pm	Rupkotha
09:45pm	Dokhinajayoner Din
Boishakhi TV	08:40pm
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