

WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Watercolours and Paintings
Artist: Hamiduzzaman Khan
Venue: Galleria Kaya, Uttra
Date: May 24-June 6
Time: 11pm-8pm

Concert
Band: Dolchut
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan 1
Date: June 1; Time: 6:30pm

Photography Exhibition
Title: Life and Beyond
Venue: Dhaka Art Center, Dharmo Hall
Date: May 25-30
Time: 3pm-8pm

Film Screening
Venue: Dhaka Art Center, H-60, R-7/8, Dhamundi
Date: May 25-31
Time: 6pm

TIMECODE

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Tumi Acho Ontyre
Artist: Rezwan Nabi
Venue: Shilpagan Gallery, H-7, R-13(New), Dhamundi
Date: May 18-30

Group Drawing Exhibition
Title: Freefall
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60 Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1
Date: May 24-31

Classical Musical Soiree
Organiser: Shishir Ghosh
Venue: 4th floor, Bishwa Sahitya Kendra, Dhaka
Date: May 31
Time: 6:30pm

Theatre in Asia
ITI Theatre Fest
Venue: Shilpakala Academy, Shegunbagha
Date: May 27-June 3
Time: 7pm everyday

INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL, SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP
TRADITIONAL ART FORMS TAKE CENTRE STAGE

Scenes from "Mayar Khela" and "Dhamer Gaan" (below).

JAMIL MAHMUD

Traditional performing arts were in the spotlight as two plays based on Rabindranath Tagore's literary works were the highlight of the second day (May 28) of the ongoing "International Theatre Festival, Seminar and Workshop" at the Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy. The Bangladesh Centre of International Theatre Institute (ITI) in association with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy has arranged the fest.

Shadhma staged the Tagore dance drama at the National Theatre Hall, while Ganayan [from Chittagong] staged "Muktadhara" at the Experimental Theatre Hall. Mittal featuring traditional Natya Goshthi (Thakurgaon) staged "Dhamer Gaan", the only art form at the festival, at the Studio Theatre Hall.

The Tagore dance drama "Mayar Khela" depicts the eternal emotion of love. Mayakumari/kumar (nymphs and sprites) weave illusions, entangling the minds of men and women. The story follows Amar, who loves Shanta, but is taken in by Promoda's beauty and charms. Promoda rejects Amar and two

other suitors -- Kumar and Ashok. Lubna Marium and Ali Ahmed Mukul designed the costume and sets. Amit Chowdhury and Sabir Ahmed Khan jointly directed the dance.

The cast included Tahmina Anwar Anika, Arthy Ahmed, Shammi Akhter, Parva Evana, Laweena Amreen Mazhar, Akash Haque Abir, Hanif Hossain and Sharif Nayan.

Nirher Chowdhury and Rokon Emon were the music directors. Their works saw a vision to contemporise Tagore works.

Ganayan's "Muktadhara" was directed by Dr. Kuntal Barua. The Tagore classic zooms in on a dam. The King of Utarkut, Ranjit [played by Ranjita Raksiti], has ordered the royal engineer Bibhuti (Shahid Uddin Ahmed) to build a dam on Muktadhara (a forceful waterfall). The intention is to teach the people of Shibtarai a good lesson, since they often disobey the King.

Bibhuti does so but the kind and compassionate Prince Abhijit (Bappa Chowdhury) does not agree with his father's plan. His love for the free waterfall and his refusal to allow the King to exploit the people of Shibtarai, prompts him to demolish the machine and let

loose the force of the waterfall.

The cast also included Dulal Dasgupta, Anirban Bhattacharjee and Sharabon Tahura. Ashim Das did the sets and light.

"Dhamer Gaan" is a traditional theatre form that is usually performed in Takurgaon during Durga Puja. Team leader Dharan Chandra Burman informed that they usually start the performance at midnight and continue till dawn. The pala "Hausher Behani Rangila Behai" is a witty and comical production by the troupe that depicts the tender relationships between two in-laws.

A group of nine members including a musical team performed at the pala. They included Subol Chandra Roy, Parimal Chandra Burman, Purna Burman and Narayan Burman.

Today, Desh Natok will stage its latest production "Arakkhita" at the National Theatre Hall.

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

The three-day celebrations organised by Jatiyo Kobi Nazrul Islam University (JKNIU) in Trishal marking the birth anniversary of poet Nazrul concluded May 27. The venue was Gahi Sammyer Gaan Moncha of the university.

The programmes included placing of floral wreaths at the portrait of the poet, a rally, cultural shows, cultural competition and debate for children, book fair and a photo exhibition on Nazrul.

The students of Fine Arts Department of the university also organised a painting exhibition at Theatre Hall of the university. Fine Arts Department students staged jatra pala "MadhuBala" on the second day of the celebration.

Every day the programme kicked off with chorus titled, "Shoto Kanthe Nazruler Gaan" attended by hundreds of students.

The students of Music and Natyakala departments of the university led the cultural programmes that included a musical soiree and staging of plays written by Nazrul. Prizes among the winners of cultural competition and debate were distributed on the concluding day.

Prof. Dr. Rafiqul Islam, chairman of Nazrul Institute Trustee Board was the chief guest at the concluding ceremony.

A discussion was held yesterday. Khilkhil Kazi and Rashedul Hasan Shelly spoke on the occasion.

On the second day on May 26, H.T. Imam, prime minister's adviser to public administration affairs was the chief guest.

Earlier, chairman of University Grant Commission Prof. Dr. A.K. Azad Chowdhury inaugurated the celebratory

Lipi's "Bizarre and Beautiful II" to be auctioned at Christie's in London



"Bizarre and Beautiful II".

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After the boom in the South Asian art market over the last decade, many of us have dreamt that the breeze will flow in Bangladesh as well. Many Bangladeshi organisations, galleries are trying to promote Bangladeshi art internationally.

The recent Dhaka Art Summit, which was held from April 12-15 has heartened Bangladeshi artists and many wonder about the global response to their art.

"The world's largest auction house with an annual art sale of over US \$ 5 billion is putting up Tayeba Begum Lipi's artwork "Bizarre and Beautiful-2" in their South Asian Modern and Contemporary Art Sale at Christie's King Street, London on June 11 in this year," informed Rajeeb Samdani, founder-trustee of the Samdani Art Foundation.

Lipi's artwork will be auctioned at Christie's along with other contemporary and modern artists of the subcontinent like Pakistani artists Rashid Rana and Adeela Sulman, Indian artist Bharat Kher, Bose Krishnamachari, Jitish Kallat, Zarina Hashmi and Sudobi Gupta, British artist Shezad Dawood to

Indian masters like Tyeb Mehta, Francis Newton Souza, MF Hussain, S H Raza, Bikash Bhattacharjee, Manik Bajwa and many more. The highlight of this auction is an acrylic on canvas by Tyeb Mehta which was executed in 1996 and the work has been estimated to be US \$1.9 million- \$2.8 million.

Lipi's "Bizarre and the Beautiful-2" is an installation, made of stainless steel, hangers and razor blades. Through this powerful and expressive work, she questions how a woman's beauty should be represented. The installation consists of 3,000 razor blades made of stainless steel, shaped into 30 pairs of brassieres that hang from a metal bar.

The artist was born in Gaibandha in 1969. She studied Drawing and Painting at the Institute of Fine Art (now the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka). She is one of the founder trustees of Britto Arts Trust, where she has played a major role as coordinator since its inception in 2002. She has curated several international large-scale projects, as well as organised the role of commissioner for Parables: Bangladesh Pavilion at the 54th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, 2011.

Elaborate programmes on Nazrul birth anniversary

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on Friday afternoon as chief guest.

The JKNIU authority gave crests to eminent personalities--Dr. Karunamoy Goshwari for literature and Khalid Hossain for his contribution to music.

Dr. Mohammad Moshin, Syed Mamun Reza, Dr. Abu Jafar and Mohammad Fakaruddin were the discussants on the life and work of Nazrul.

Vice-chancellor of JKNIU Professor Syed Giasuddin Ahmed presided over the discussion.

The speakers said that the university should spearhead study and research on Nazrul. More facilities must therefore be available at the university to facilitate researchers, the speakers said.

ZAHANGI SHAH, Manikganj

To celebrate the 113th birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam, Uddihi Shilpi Goshthi organised a discussion and cultural function at its office premises in Manikganj district town on Friday.

Dhruba Ghosh and Tajul Islam recited poetry. Shukla Roy, Sadia Islam, Bushra Ahmed, Anwesa Nandi, Tanima Mandal, Mafia Binte Mansur Shukh and Ishrat Jahan Rinter rendered songs.

Earlier a discussion was held. Prodip Hor, president of Manikganj unit of Uddihi Shilpi Goshthi, presided over the discussion.

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AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Kazi Nazrul Islam's birth anniversary was observed amidst festivity in Pabna. Several organisations of the district chalked out programmes marking the occasion.

Ananda Gobinda Public Library organised a discussion and cultural programme at the library premises on Friday night.

Freedom fighter Robiul Islam Robi, vice president of the club chaired the discussion. Educationist Professor Md. Kamruzzaman, cultural organiser Abdul Aziz and secretary of the club Abdul Matin Khan spoke on the occasion.

The speakers focused on the secular tone of Nazrul's literature. His verses hinged on human rights and freedom. Religious conservatism never influenced his literature, they added.

Artistes recited Nazrul's poetry while other artists rendered Nazrul songs.

Meanwhile Pabna Edward College organised a discussion on Nazrul's birth anniversary. A discussion was held at the college campus. Vice principal of the college Professor Bazlur Rahman chaired the discussion while the principal of the college professor Naid Md. Samsul Huda spoke as the chief guest.

Among the teachers of the college AKM Shawkat Ali Khan, Amzad Hossain, Jalal Uddin and Habibullah spoke on the occasion. The speakers focused on the revolutionary tone of the poet.

Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam revolted against anarchy. He never bent down in the face of autocracy, the speakers asserted. His poems keep alive the revolutionary spirit in Bangla literature, they added.

Later the artists of Pabna Edward College performed songs on the occasion.

United Red Army: 1977 Forever

KARIM WAHEED

on the JRA, and the hijacking; this has been educational for sure! The negotiation, often inadvertently, induced chuckles.

As the psychological dance between the hijackers and the Bangladeshi negotiator continued, another drama was brewing on the sidelines. As the Japanese government accepted the hijackers' demands, some Bangladesh Air Force officers staged an unsuccessful mutiny, which later led to secret killings, including of air force officers. I scratched my head; how did I not know this?

According to the filmmaker, until this incident, BTV used to have four-hour transmission everyday. To provide live coverage, the Japanese Embassy apparently gave BTV necessary equipments. So, in a way this was a landmark for our TV. When the hijacker [whom the negotiator calls "Dankesu"] acting as the mouthpiece, asks for newspapers, the negotiator tells him "newspapers lie." Though the remark was made out of sheer desperation and need to appease the jumpy hijackers, as the chief negotiator Air Vice Marshall (Retd) A.G. Mahmud told the audience during a Q&A session, it made me smile. Some allegations are timeless.

About the Japanese Red Army: JRA was a communist militant group founded by Fusako Shigenobu early in 1971 in

September 28, 1977. An eight year old is eagerly waiting for his favourite TV show -- "The Zoo Gang" [a British spy show] -- to begin. To his dismay, a drama of a different kind unfolded on TV.

Shortly after taking off from Mumbai, Japan Airlines Flight 472 with 156 people on board, was hijacked by the Japanese Red Army. The JRA members, led by Osamu Maruoka, ordered it flown to Dhaka. At Dhaka, the hijackers took the passengers and crew hostage, demanding \$6 million and the release of 9 imprisoned JRA members.

Over the next 80 hours, this drama between the hijackers and the Dhaka control tower played out. The eight year old grew up but this episode, the flickering black and white images, perhaps still rerun in his head. Though the circumstances were different, Naeem Mohaiemen's "The Young Man Was (Part 1: United Red Army)", gave me a similar experience.

Minimal archival footage, more audio and text, accompanied by eerie sound effect in the background, made me feel like a witness and at times a hostage.

Hostage because not enough information was provided [I had to do a little research



A still from "United Red Army".

Lebanon. It sometimes called itself Arab-JRA after the Lod Airport [now Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv] massacre. The JRA's stated goals were to overthrow the Japanese government and monarchy and to start a world revolution. This group grew notable because its members

slaughtered twelve of their own in its training camp.

The film had multiple screenings in Dhaka and one in Chittagong. The next show is on June 17 [7pm] at Bengal Art Lounge, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka.

"In the memory hole," Mohaiemen says, "it is always 1977." I can see why.

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release].

Ranu started to train in Bharatnatyam, and later trained in Kuchipudi under Padma Shri Jaya Rama Rao and Vanasaree Rao and staged her Kuchipudi 'rangapravesham' in 1987 in Delhi. Not surprisingly even though she was majoring in History, Ranu's M.Phil thesis for the University of Delhi was based on the history of the patronage of dance in India. Ranu was the recipient of the Sahitya Kala Yuva Puraskar award in 1988. She has performed extensively in India and abroad, earning accolades for her expressive abhinaya (theatrics) and graceful movements.

Ranu is married to Sanjay Bhattacharyya, who is presently the Deputy High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh.

In "Mawmo Manoshoshathi", Bashabutta, a courtesan much feted for her prowess and beauty, bumps into the self-effacing and silent monk, Upagupta. She tries to seduce him but he refuses her. When Bashabutta is afflicted by a disease and rejected by all, it is this mendicant alone who comes to her rescue, highlighting the humane moral values instilled through the teachings of Buddha.

After several experimental works, Shadhma is now presenting Tagore in a classical format.

Pioneer of modern art 36th death anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin

Winners of the painting competition.

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Marking the 36th death anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, the pioneer of modern art, a discussion was held at the premises of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala (art gallery) at Shaheed Quarter Park area of the town this afternoon. Dr. K Zaman, journalist Ziauddin Ahmed, Professor Md. Safin Omar at Fine Arts Faculty of Jatiyo Kobi Kazi Nazrul Islam University in Trishal and advocate Moazzem Hossain Babul took part in the discussion.

Dr. Bijoy Krishna Banik, deputy keeper of the art gallery presided over the discussion.

The speakers said that today's children will glorify Zainul if they are nurtured in a positive environment. Zainul speeded up the painting movement, sidelining the influential who dominated society at the time with adverse effects, said the speakers. Those who achieved fame were engaged in philanthropy and Zainul was one of them, said the speakers adding Shilpacharya took the art of this country to global standards.

A painting competition for children was held on Friday afternoon marking Abedin's death anniversary.

Organised by the art gallery, the painting competition was attended by some 100 students in four groups from different educational institutions.

RAJDEEP BANERJEE (left) and RANU BHATTACHARYYA in the dance-drama.

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ATN BANGLA

01:25 Band View
05:10 Documentary: Debra
08:00 Destination Unlimited
10:55 Bileker Kache Proshno
11:30 Drama Serial: Arsey

CHANNEL 1

01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
03:00 Tele Film
05:30 Drama Serial: Aj Kichhu
07:50 Holiche
09:35 Lux Channel 1 Superstar

ntv