

**WHAT'S ON**

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Watercolour and Paintings  
Artist: Hamiduzzaman Khan  
Venue: Gallei Kaya, Uttara  
Date: May 24-June 6  
Time: 1pm-8pm

**Concert**  
Band: Dolchhut  
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 Centre, Dharmoadi  
Date: May 25-31  
Time: 3pm-8pm

**Film Screening**  
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, R-7/A, Dharmoadi  
Date: May 25-31  
Time: 6pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Tumi Achho Ontorey  
Artist: Rezaun Nabi  
Venue: Shilpakona Gallery, H-7, R-13(New), Dharmoadi  
Date: May 18-30

**Group Drawing Exhibition**  
Title: Freefall  
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60 Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1  
Date: May 24-June 11

**Classical Musical Soiree**  
Organiser: Shudhda Sangret  
Proshar Goshthi  
Venue: 4th floor, Bishwa Sahitya Kendra, Dhaka  
Date: May 31  
Time: 6:30pm

**ITI Theatre Fest**  
Venue: Shilpakala Academy, Sheganbagicha  
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).

PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD

**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 Shilpakala Academy. The Bangladesh Centre of International Theatre Institute (ITI) in association with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has arranged the fest.

Shadhona staged the Tagore dance drama at the National Theatre Hall, while Ganayan [from Chittagong] staged "Muktadhara" at the Experimental Theatre Hall. Mitali 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 Sabbir Ahmed Khan jointly directed the dance.

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

Nirjher Chowdhury and Rokon Emon were the music directors. Their works saw a vision to contemporise Tagore songs. Ganayan's "Muktadhara" was directed by Dr. Kuntal Barua. The Tagore classic zooms in on a dam. The King of Uttarkut, Ranjit (played by Ranajit Rakshit), 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 Sharaban Tahura. Ashim Das did the sets and light.

"Dhamer Gaan" is a traditional theatre form that is usually performed in Takhurgaon during Durga Puja. Team leader Dharani 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.

**United Red Army: 1977 Forever**

**KARIM WAHEED**

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, Naem 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

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 "Dankes") 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



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 show 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.

**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 Shaheeb 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.

**Elaborate programmes on**  
**Nazrul birth anniversary**

**AMINUL ISLAM, *Mymensingh***

The three-day celebrations organised by Jatiyo Kobi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKNIU) in Trishal marking the birth anniversary of poet Nazrul commenced May 27. The venue was Gahi Sammar 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 Grants Commission Prof. Dr. A.K. Azad Chowdhury inaugurated the celebration.

tion on Friday afternoon as chief guest.

The JKNIU authority gave crests to eminent personalities--Dr. Karunamoy Goshwami 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.

**ZAHANGIR SHAH, *Manikganj***

To celebrate the 113th birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam, Udichi 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 Rinta rendered songs.

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

Shahidul Islam Faruque, president of Sangskritik Biplobi Sangha (SABIS), Professor Mir Moksedul Alam, Dipak Kumar Ghosh, president of Probbat Sangha and journalist Saifuddin Ahmed Nannu addressed the gathering on the life and writings of Nazrul.

**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.

Annoda 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.

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

Meanwhile Pabna Edward College organised poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's birth anniversary. A discussion was held at the college campus. Vice principal of the college Professor Bazul 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.

**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 Suleman, Indian artists Bharti Kher, Bose Krishnamachari, Jitish Kallat, Zarina Hashmi and Subodh Gupta, British artist Shezad Dawood to

Indian masters like Tyeb Mehta, Francis Newton Souza, MF Hussain, S H Raza, Bikash Bhattacharjee, Manjit Bawa 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 donned the role of commissioner for Parables: Bangladesh Pavilion at the 54th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, 2011.

12:05 Euro Friendly Football '12 (Live)

**CHANNEL 9**  
01:15 The Business Show  
04:15 Shreshath Doctor  
05:15 Shudhu Cinemar Gaan  
08:35 Boro Bhalobashi Gaan  
11:00 Reporters Dairy

**Boishakhi TV**  
01:15 The Business Show  
04:15 Shreshath Doctor  
05:15 Shudhu Cinemar Gaan  
08:35 Boro Bhalobashi Gaan  
11:00 Reporters Dairy

**BANGLAVISION**  
01:05 Bangla Feature Film  
05:20 Bichitra  
09:05 Nacho Bangladesh  
11:25 Music Club

**Rtv**  
12:35 Bangla Feature Film  
05:00 Cinema R Gaan  
09:50 Lucky Line  
11:30 Drama Serial: Ural Pangkhi

**DRAMA SERIAL**  
ATN BANGLA  
08:40pm Chand Phul Omabostha  
09:20pm Poush Phaguner Pala  
ntv  
09:45pm Dekkhinayon-er Din  
Boishakhi TV  
08:00pm Pathorer Kanna  
09:20pm Ongpath  
BANGLAVISION  
08:15pm Bokulpurer Jatri  
Rtv  
08:15pm Parsho Protiksha  
09:55pm Boyra Paribar  
Desh TV  
07:45pm Saatkahon  
08:15pm Radio Chocolate  
Maaranga Television  
08:30pm Khonikaly

**NEWS BULLETIN**  
BTV  
News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm.  
News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm.  
ATN BANGLA  
News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm.  
News (English) at 9am, 6pm.  
CHANNEL I  
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 5pm, 10:30pm.  
ntv  
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.  
ETV  
News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.  
Boishakhi TV  
News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm.  
News (English) at 9am, 6pm.  
BANGLAVISION  
News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.  
News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm.  
Rtv  
News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm.  
Desh TV  
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.  
Maaranga Television  
News (Bangla) at 7pm, 1am.

**TALK SHOW**  
ATN BANGLA  
06:15pm Kothamala  
12:30am Lead News  
CHANNEL  
12:05pm Tama Matrai Apni  
12:30pm Tanika Kothan  
11:30pm Aloy Bhubon Bhora  
ntv  
12:30am Ei Shomoy  
ETV  
12:05am Ekushey-er Rast  
Boishakhi TV  
12:05am Zoro Hour  
BANGLAVISION  
06:25pm Front Line  
Rtv  
10:40am Tarokalop  
07:40pm Our Democracy