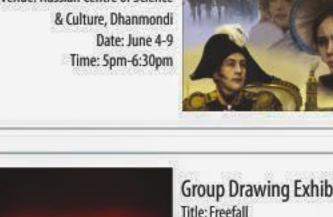
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ate: June 1-14; Time: 3pm-9pm

Safiuddin Ahmed retrospective at Bengal Gallery



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in Dhanmon has organised a special solo art exhibitio titled "Tribute to Great Master Safiuddin Ahmed", featuring works of the recently deceased artist Safiuddin Ahmed. Begum Jahanara Abedin (widow of

Zainul Abedin) inaugurated the exhibiti on June 5 as chief guest. Painter Qayyun Chowdhury; educationist Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir; writer and poet Syed Shamsul Haq; artist Rafiqun Nabi and Professor Abul Mansur, Institute of Fine Arts, Chittagong University spoke on the

Subir Chowdhury, director, Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, and Ahmed Nazir (son of Safiuddin Ahmed) also spoke at the opening programme.

The discussants talked about Safiuddin's life, work and contribution to

Bangladeshi art. They collectively expressed the view that Safiuddin was not only a great printmaker, but also an accomplished painter. The death of Safiuddin was a great loss for the Bangladeshi art scene. He was a major inspiration for contemporary artists.

About 70 artworks (paintings and prints) are on display at the exhibition Safiuddin mainly focused on rural panorama and way of life, landscapes, flood and other natural calamities, Santals, Liberation War as well as the Language Movement. The exhibition also features portraits, still life, drawings and more. Black is the noticeable shade in most of his paintings and prints at the exhibition. As an experimental artist, he made use of varied geometrical patterns and shapes as symbolic modes of expressions.

Some of his outstanding achievements as a young artist included the President's Gold Medal (1945) by Academy of Fine Arts, Calcutta; first prize in the category of

black and white in International Contemporary Art Exhibition, New Delhi (1946); first prize in the category of black and white (etching and drawing) in Inter-Asian Art Exhibition in New Delhi (1947) and Safiuddin was born in 1922 in Calcutta Patna Maharaja's Gold Medal (1947). He was a recipient of the Ekushey Padak and (now Kolkata), India. He was a student of Shadhinota Puroshkar. Calcutta Government School of Art and

graduated from the institute in 1942. After

for Dhaka, where he found himself caught

institute in the then East Pakistan. He was

Zainul Abedin. He was one of the founders

Fine Arts, University of Dhaka). From 1948

of Dacca Art College (now the Faculty of

to 1979, he served as head of the depart-

ment of printmaking at the institute.

Partition in 1947, Safiuddin left Calcutta

up in a movement to set up the first art

a friend and colleague of Shilpacharya

Alluvial Arts

Alluvial Arts

Promoting contemporary Bangladeshi art in the Silicon Valley

A CORRESPONDENT

In 2011 Samira Rahmatullah, a Bangladeshi citizen living in Silicon Valley, California, USA decided to leave her job as a strategy consultant in order to explore a career in the arts. Based on her love for art, earlier this year she launched Alluvial Arts, an organisation dedicated to promoting contemporary Banglades art in the San Francisco Bay Area and eventually across the USA. As someone who has worked with a variety of art institutions in San Francisco over the years, Samira believes now a very exciting time to be paying attention to Bangladeshi art. As she explains, in the last decade contemporary art from Bangladesh has grown tremendously in exposure and recogni tion across Asia and Europe, marked by its participation in the 2011 Venice Biennale; its first international art fair, the Dhaka Art Summit, in April 2012; the emergence of online portals for contemporary Bangladeshi art such as Artist Trekker and Jolrong; and finally, the considerable growth in market price of

Bangladeshi art over the last few years. "I believe contemporary Bangladesh art is on the cusp of a global boom over the next 10 years, much like what we've seen with Indian art over the last decade. As India and Bangladesh have continued to grow at a rapid

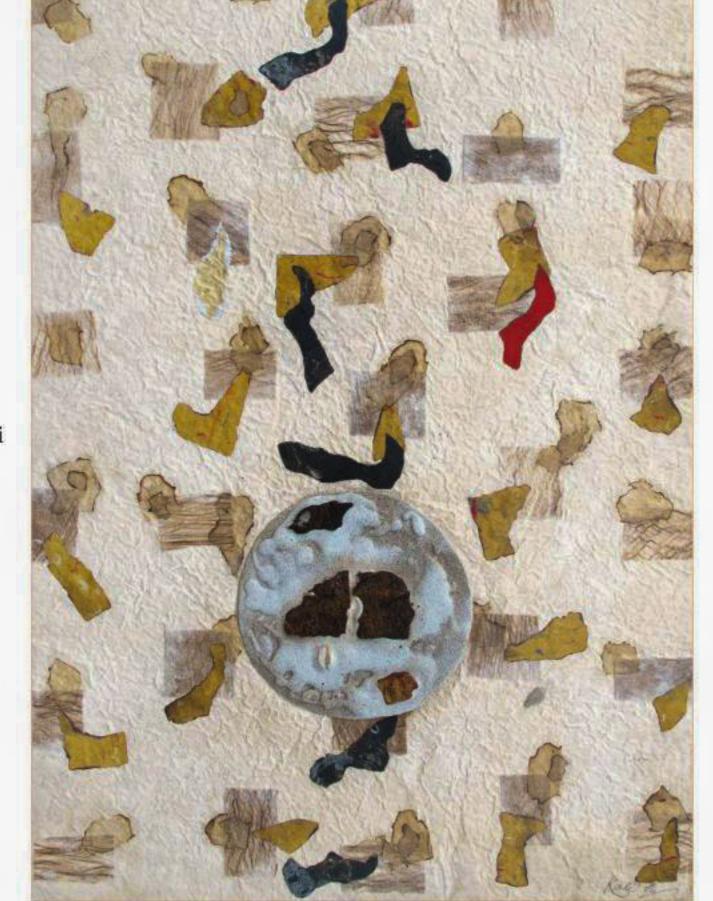
rate and the South Asian region has continued to increase its prominence on the world stage, there has not only been a surge in global interest in South Asian culture, but also an institutional recognition of contemporary South Asian art as world class. I hope to see many more initiatives emerge over the next few years, to increase exposure for Bangladeshi artists around the world," says Samira. Through art shows, public programmes and

publications, Alluvial Arts hopes to bring greater exposure to the depth of content and talent among contemporary artists in Bangladesh and in the Bangladeshi diaspora, and to connect art communities and collectors across the USA with a yet relatively undiscovered source of art that is refreshing, engaging, and that holds all the promise of a place and

people coming into their own. Alluvial Arts' inaugural exhibition, "Soul & Symbols of a Delta: Contemporary Art from Bangladesh", will run from June 7 to 17 at SOMArts, a gallery in San Francisco. The show will feature the works of three Bangladeshi artists: Proshanta Karmakar Buddha, Nagarbasi Barman and last but not least, one of Bangladesh's top artists, the internationally renowned Kalidas Karmakar. Kalidas will be attending the opening of the exhibition in person to give a talk. As the first professionally curated exhibition of contemporary

Bangladeshi art of this size and scope in California and one of the first of its kind in the US, "Soul & Symbols of a Delta" presents a rare opportunity for not only NRBs but the San Francisco Bay Area art community and mainstream American society, to experience firsthand an emerging form of contemporary art that interprets and reclaims ancient artistic traditions of Bengal in today's context. For more information on the exhibition and

Alluvial Arts, please visit: www.alluvialarts.com.



Bollywood bound Bengali stars

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

There is sudden surge of Bengali actors in Bollywood cinema after the box-office success of Vidya-Balan-starrer, "Kahaani" and Paoli Dam's "Hate Story".

While in the past, stray forays in Hind films have been made by Uttam Kumar, Suchitra Sen, Biswajeet and Moushum Chatterjee, at least four to five actors from Bengali cinema seems to have found a good audience response to their roles in Hindi films.

"Kahaani" director Sujoy Ghosh plans to bring Vidya Balan back as Bidya Bagchi in a sequel, while Kolkata and the Bengali stars are set to become more important.

Ahmed's popularity is on

the rise with many one-

"Terminal" is currently

ented director recently

talked to The Daily Star

beginnings as a director

Shokal Ahmed: Everyone is familiar with

purposes. Some come to study here and

then leave. A terminal is needed to be able

to dream and for realising dreams. Our

Which serials have you have directed so

Shokal Ahmed: "Dhulo Ora Din", "Megh

Bona Ghor", "Nut Boltu", "Chou Mohol",

Shokal Ahmed: I've directed several short

plays, as well as tele-films. My adaptation

Anisul Islam's "Natai" was well received.

Other works that won accolades include

Ponerosho Shaat", "Ekjon Rojob Ali", "Ekti

Moddhobitto Bhabna", "The Shoe Story",

"Karigor", "Shorom Chor", "Ek Koti

What about one-hour-TV plays?

Bondhu", "Tobuo Boshonto", "Nine Month

the word 'terminal'. I wanted to show

What is the plot of "Terminal"?

capital is actually a terminal.

"Kahaani" has been praised for good performance by supporting characters played by Bengali actors like Saswata Chatterjee and Parambrata Chatterjee, the grandson of the legendary filmmaker

Saswata's portrayal of a poker-faced contract killer won him many fans and made him an online craze while Parambrata's turn as a cop was appreci-Apart from "Kahaani", Vikram Bhatt's

much-talked about film "Hate Story" marked the debut of Paoli Dam, another Bengali actress. She created ripples with her bold scenes in the Vivek Agnihotri-

"It is every actor's dream to work in Bollywood. I want to do more films here

A dedicated director



Bengali then I would definitely do so," Bengali superstar Prosenjit Chatterjee,

who left Bollywood after the failure of "Aandhiyaan" and "Meet Mere Man Ke", is returning to Hindi cinema after two decades with Dibakar Banerjee's political thriller "Shanghai".

Prosenjit is playing the role of a social activist. Dibakar says though it is not a big role, Prosenjit's presence permeates

"It took me three months to convince him [Prosenjit]. He wanted to be very sure before he did anything outside the Bengali film because it would be his first Hindi film after a long time," Dibakar

Exploring the dark side of politics and corruption, "Shanghai" is about the dream of turning Indian cities into Shanghai overnight Dibakar feels it is not easy for super-

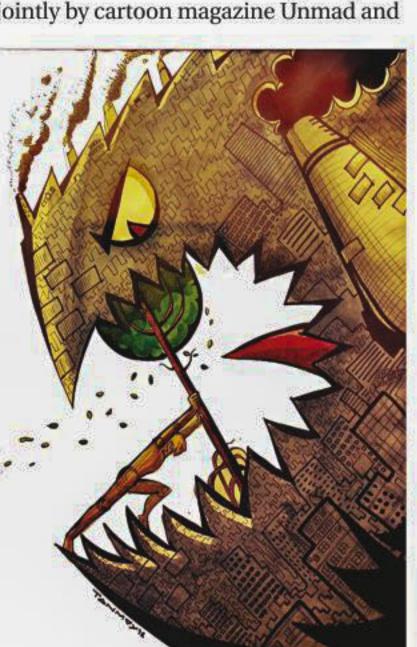
stars of regional language cinema of India to break into Bollywood and this is why they hesitate to star in Hindi films.

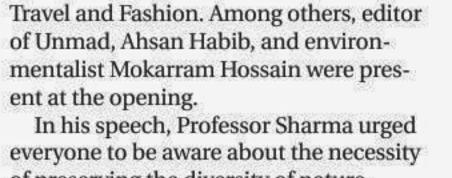
"Anybody who comes from regional cinema...for him or her to break through the very insular star system of Bollywood is not easy. When you are respected as the number one in own film industry it's difficult to sort of accept the fact that you are seen as a new entrant to this industry. That's where true courage comes in and Prosenjit has it in him," the director of "Khosla Ka Ghosla" said.

Cartoon exhibition

A three-day cartoon exhibition and competition on environmental issues was held recently at the Drik Gallery in Dhanmondi, says a press release. The exhibition, titled "Gachh Lagao! Gachh Bachao!", held from June 1 to 3, feature 70 works by noted and upcoming car-

Botanist Professor Dwijen Sharma naugurated the exhibition organised jointly by cartoon magazine Unmad and





everyone to be aware about the necessity of preserving the diversity of nature. Ahsan Habib focussed on the importance of holding such exhibitions that would raise awareness among people regarding nature.





"Hello Excellency", featuring diplomats, on ntv tonight



MR Osmani (R) seen with the host. A CORRESPONDENT

A new entertainment show, featuring diplomats based in Bangladesh at present starts tonight on ntv. The programme titled "Hello Excellency", will be aired fortnightly on Thursdays at 6:45 pm on the channel.

The programme celebrates the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations

between Bangladesh and other countries. In tonight's episode, Ambassador of Denmark, Svend Olling, and former Bangladeshi Foreign Secretary, MR Osmani, will be present as guests. Each show will highlight the diplomats' work experience here in Bangladesh along with their personal interests and more. Hosted by Mushfigul Fazal Ansari, the

show has been produced by Junayed Bin

Who mentored you in direction? Svend Olling and spouse in the programme. Shokal Ahmed: I started off as a journalist,



grateful to the magazine as it brought me where I am today. I was fortunate enough to get the chance to work with an editor like Shahadat Chowdhury. As part of my work as a reporter, I attended many shooting sessions. Eventually I developed an interest in Brick Lane", "Lucky Thirteen", "Shunnotae being a director. While I was still a journalist, I began working as an assistant director for Taher Shipon. I even went to Malaysia "Kalo Chhaya" and "'Black Shadow'", among with him to shoot the serial "Ekusher Por". I also worked as Taher Shipon's assistant for several other serials.

> What are your goals as a director? Shokal Ahmed: I hope to make a movie some day. I'm working towards that

What is the biggest challenge in making Shokal Ahmed: Budget. Funding has

"Tin Prithibir Manush", "Radio" and "Amar become difficult. Prices of everything are soaring, except the budget for plays. There is no alternative to a more generous budget for the popular magazine Anandadhara. I'm for making a good play.





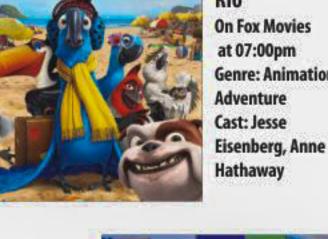
TN BANGLA HANNELI

12:30am Lead News

10:50pm Reporters Diary 12:00am Zero Hour BANGLAVISION 10:40am Tarokalap 07:40pm Our Democracy

06:30pm Talk of the Week

CHANNEL 9



Shopping & Cooking 09:30 Drama Serial: Paa

Fox Movies Drama: Mayajal 11:15 The Business Show 10:10 Once Upon A Time

Shorashori Doctor 11:05 The Mask Of Zorro 05:30 Shudhu Cinemar Gaan 06:15 Carrier Path BANGLAVISION

Boishakhi TV

Star World The Big Bang Theory

09:30 Jr. Master Chef **Discovery Channel**

DRAMA SERIAL 08:15pm Bokulpurer 09:20pm Red Dragon to

09:50pm Mon Rongila 08:15pm Radio Chocolate

NEWS BULLETIN

News (Bangla) at 10am,

News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm. News (English) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm. News (English) at 9am,

ATN BANGLA News (Bangla) at 11am, News (Bangla) at 10am, News (English) at 9am, News (Bangla) at 2pm

News (Bangla) at 2pm 7:30pm, 10:30pm. News (Bangla) at 1pm,

TALK SHOW

12:05am Ekushey-er Raat