

WHAT'S ON

Theatre
Play: Prakrito Purangana
Troupe: Desh Natok
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Nov 8, Time: 6:30pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Tajuddin Ahmed
Venue: Venue: Institute of Art and Culture R-1/A, H-2, Gulshan-1
Date: Oct 31-Nov 10
Time: 11am-7:30pm

Int'l Theatre Festival
Organiser: Theatre Art Unit
Venue: Shilpakala Academy
Date: November 14-24
Time: 6:30pm

Theatre
Play: Rudro Robi O Jallamwala Bagh
Troupe: National Theatre Repertory
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: November 8

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Of Man and Earth
Artist: Syed Jahangir
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dharmadadi
Date: Nov 2-13

81st Birth Anniversary
Artist: Aminul Islam
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dharmadadi
Date: Nov 7
Time: 6:30pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Sabina Nezaqat
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, Gulshan
Date: Nov 3-22
Time: 12pm-9pm

Portrait of a painter

Aminul Islam's 81st birth anniversary today

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Today is the 81st birth anniversary of painter Aminul Islam. He is one of the senior most and acclaimed painters of Bangladesh. He graduated as part of the first batch of Dhaka Art College (now Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka), which was established in 1948.

On the occasion of Islam's birth anniversary, Bengal Foundation will organise a discussion and publication ceremony today at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dharmadadi in the city. Islam's peers Murtaja Baseer, Qayyum Chowdhury, Syed Shamsul Haque, and Professor Anisuzzaman will speak about his life and works. The book titled "Ananya Aminul Islam", featuring essays, articles, reminiscences by veteran artists, critics, writers, social activists and educationists will be published today.

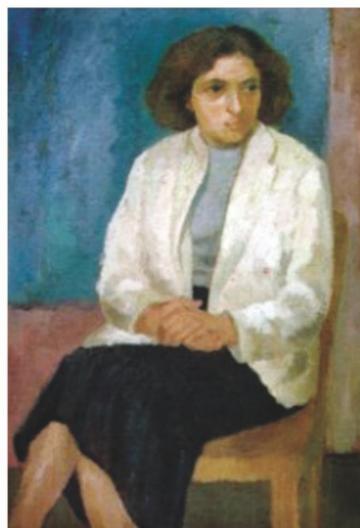
After discussion, Shama Rahman, Bulbul Islam and Luva Nahid Chowdhury will render songs at the programme. A number of art institutes and galleries will also organise discussions on his life and immense contribution to the world of art.

Passionate and imaginative, Islam shied away from overexposure and any commercial lure. He was a workaholic and believed in noble creations. He was extremely cordial and supportive, particularly towards promising painters. He took great pride in every achievement of his students. Among Islam's contemporaries were Hamidur Rahman, Bazle Molla, Imdad Hossain, Khaled Chowdhury, Loknath Dhor and Ali Humayun (first batch of the Government College of Arts and Crafts, later renamed Faculty of Fine Arts). The group was very committed and most of them were involved in left leaning politics. Their preferred themes were nature, urban life and surrounding



Aminul Islam

atmosphere. At the time, Dacca (now Dhaka) was a quiet city and had many green spaces. Painters frequently visited the Buriganga river, Waiz Ghat and other scenic spots for inspiration. Zainul Abedin particularly stressed on drawing and successfully gave Islam and his comrades an understanding of this genre of art and its various significant aspects. The students also portrayed political chaos, economic crises, city life, rural life, still life and other subjects. Some of them were greatly influenced by internationally acclaimed



Oriental, oil on canvas, 1953

impressionist painters. Among his contemporaries, Islam made an immense contribution by introducing modern paintings in Bangladesh. "Painting, for me, is the best way to knowledge, the best means to participate profoundly in global life," Islam used to say. The painter also said, "Painters are of two kinds one group works with emotions and the other works with intelligence. My position is in the middle. Both aspects are inherent in me." On the completion of his primary education, Islam gained admission to

Calcutta Art College as an art college was to be established in Dhaka very soon. Islam returned to Dhaka with Zainul Abedin. However, since there was no sign of any art college being opened, he got admitted at Dacca College.

The Government Institute of Art opened in 1948. Islam got admitted there and completed his BFA. Then he went to Florence, Italy to pursue higher studies in art. His three years there proved very formative; as he found answers to many of the questions he had earlier about art and aesthetics.

After moving back to Dhaka, Islam's style underwent a fundamental change. Lines, colours and space became the prime focus in his paintings. Throughout his chequered career, he frequently returned to nature as a subject.

Islam had grown primarily as a non-figurative painter since the early 1960s and started to experiment with different mediums and art forms. Besides painting, Islam also preferred drawing. In the course of his career, he developed several styles, particularly in his drawings and sketches. His figure-based works from the mid-1960s are remarkable; mainly "Homage to Khajuraho", an erotic drawing series focusing on the physical relationship between males and females. The series articulates the proper emotion and fantasy of human beings. The drawings appear serene and the lines have been meticulously done.

Gradually Islam became increasingly aware of the different qualities of lines produced by pen, pencil, brush, bamboo, discarded brush and other objects. The powerful drawings reveal his mastery over lines and superb composition skills. He also did murals in different parts of the country.

Those were the days...

In conversation with Syed Abdul Hadi

"Remaining at peace with oneself is a prerequisite for any performer. Musicians need to concentrate, so as to strike a chord in the audience. That is exactly what 'angling' is for me. While fishing, I am deeply focused as I soak in the tranquility of the all-pervasive nature."

SADYA AFREEN MALlick

At the Dhaka University, friends would often refer to Syed Abdul Hadi as "Bhromora" --meaning a bumblebee. As a student, Hadi would often sing Shyamal Mitra's popular song "Bhromora phooler bon-e" at the cultural programmes. It doesn't leave much to the imagination how he picked up his nickname! "It was music composer Karim Shahabuddin who heard me at a function and introduced me to the film industry in 1960. My debut as a playback singer was in the film titled Yeh Bhi Ek Kahani.

"From then on there was no looking back," says Ekushey Padak 2000 winner Hadi.

A household name and a musical talent in our country for about half a century, Hadi is distressed at the current music scene. "The entertainment industry is in disarray. It is more of a show business," he says. "I view music similar to a flowing river. As the river flows, there is no human hand that can change its course; similarly, music takes its own course. It is rarely still—and like sparkling crystal clear water, it also reflects the society where the music originates."

"Take for instance, Kolkata in the '30s when it was the centre of performing arts for the Bengalis. The cultural field was vibrant. After the establishment of HMV, the Calcutta Radio Station in 1928 and the talks in place of silent



movies brought about a transformation; from then on music industry grew to greater heights in West Bengal. This was a booming period when artistes of immense talents, including singers, composers and lyricists came together to create the golden era of Bengali music.

"The sweet romantic notes of the '30s-'60s were hummed by one and all.

"After Partition, music as an industry developed with the introduction of radio, cinema and other media. During 1965, HMV was established in erstwhile East Pakistan. However, as a component of film songs, recordings were still carried out in Lahore, West Pakistan. You can see the reason why music as an industry hardly attained full potential in this part of the region. Even the

market was stagnant," continues Hadi.

Hadi goes on to add, "During the '70s, audio industries began to take shape, although very few in number. However, during the '70s, the genre of adhunik songs of our country reached its zenith and we surpassed the popularity of the songs of West Bengal," says the singer.

By the '80s music industry in our country, had gained momentum. I agree there are two sides to a coin, but I fully disagree with the all out 'commercial approach' in the music industry. In recent times due to commercialisation, music has turned into a 'commodity'. It has debased the quality and as a listener I feel cheated."

In a lighter moment, the singer says, "Remaining at peace with

oneself is a prerequisite for any performer. Musicians need to concentrate, so as to strike a chord in the audience. That is exactly what 'angling' is for me. While fishing, I am deeply focused as I soak in the tranquility of the all-pervasive nature. There are instances when I would have recording sessions but be totally oblivious of the time. I would sit on a macha (bamboo platform) and wait for that tug on my fishing line! Since there were no cell phones at that time, people would come frantically looking for me at my favourite hangout spots near the lakeside and rush me to the recording studios!

"The recording sessions would often continue the entire night, but we would not be fatigued. Such was the passion amongst the recording team of artistes and technicians that it seemed to hang like a heavy cloth over us."

Discussing the talent hunt programmes he says, "I strongly believe that the programmes should be thoroughly scrutinised so that only the best come forward. It should not only be a commercial venture. The best talents of the country have always come through a range of experiences and training. Emerging artistes should be warned against the evils of cheap popularity—they can easily lead you to believe you're on top of the world when you're actually little more than a momentary 'craze'."

THEATRE

"Kohe Birangana" to be staged after five months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kamolganj, Maulvibazar-based troupe Manipuri Theatre will hold two shows of its acclaimed monodrama "Kohe Birangana" after five months. The shows will be held on November 9 at 6:30pm and 8pm at the Studio Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Based on Michael Madhusudan Dutta's "Birangana Kabya", the play has been written and directed by Shuvashis Sinha. Jyoti Sinha will play four different female characters taken from the epic Mahabharat. Michael wrote the poetry based on the epic.

The play is Manipuri Theatre's first and so far only production in Bangla. Usually Manipuri Theatre produces plays in Bishnupriya Manipuri language, the mother tongue of the performers.

"Birangana Kabya" features the agony of female characters from the epic "Mahabharat", while the play features stories of Shakuntala, Draupadi, Dushala and Jona.

The play is a narrative of letters written by these four characters to their respective husbands.

Performers, who will take in chorus, include Smriti Sinha, Shukla Sinha, Sunanda Sinha and Bhagyalokhi Sinha. So far the play saw 35 staging in and outside the country.



A scene from "Kohe Birangana".

John Lennon letter to Eric Clapton for auction

REUTERS, Los Angeles

John Lennon held out the promise he could bring out more musical greatness in legendary guitarist Eric Clapton in a letter that could fetch as much as \$30,000 when it is sold at auction next month, the organisers of the sale said on Monday.

The signed, hand-written letter by the Beatle, who died in 1980 at the age of 40, is one of a selection from some of the world's great musicians that will go under the hammer in Los Angeles at the Profiles in History auction on December 18.

In a draft letter dated September 29, 1971, Lennon expressed his respect and admiration for British guitarist Clapton and suggested that they form a band together.

"Eric, I know I can bring out something great, in fact greater in you that had been so far evident in your music. I hope to bring out the same kind of greatness in all of us, which I know will happen if when we get together," Lennon wrote in the letter.

The letter will hold special significance for Beatles fans as auctioneer Joe Maddalena said it

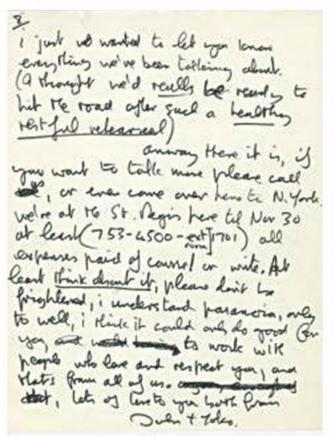
was widely known that there were problems in the Fab Four's relationships with each other, and that Clapton had almost become a Beatle.

Clapton played in the Plastic Ono Band, formed by Lennon and Yoko Ono in 1969 before the break up of the Beatles in 1970. He also played on the George Harrison song "While My Guitar Gently Weeps", which was on the Beatles' White Album.

The letter is one of 300 manuscripts and letters from literary, musical and political greats that will be auctioned from the holdings of an American collector.

Other highlights include a handwritten letter from George Washington, with a pre-sale estimate of up to \$300,000, and a Charles Dickens manuscript with an obituary of novelist William Thackeray, expected to fetch between \$40,000 and \$60,000.

Also on the auction block is a signed, handwritten letter from German composer Ludwig van Beethoven to Tobias Haslinger, a friend of his publisher, in which the musician discussed the second performance of his Ninth Symphony and the Missa Solemnis, two of his most revered works.



A letter drafted in 1971 by John Lennon is shown in this undated publicity photograph released to Reuters by auction house Profiles.

Woman power to capture Picasso's Blue Period

Athena Gallery to organise a group art exhibition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Athena Gallery of Fine Arts in Uttar Badda is to organise a group art exhibition titled "SHAKO's Tribute to Pablo Picasso's Blue Period", featuring the works of 12 female artists in our country. The exhibition will be inaugurated on November 10.

The participating painters are Farida Zaman, Kanak Chanpa Chakma, Naima Haque, Rokeya Sultana, Azadi Parvin, Afsana Sharmin, Kuhu Plamondon, Nasreen Begum, Fareha Zeba, Sulekha Choudhury, Rebeka Sultana Moly and Farzana Islam Milky.

Each artist will exhibit paintings inspired by Pablo Picasso's "Blue Period", a period from 1901



1904 in which the famed artist almost exclusively created compositions dominated by shades of blue.

The paintings are produced from a three-day art camp sponsored by the Athena Gallery of Fine Arts in early October.

Heather Cruden, Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest. Ambassador Salma Khan, former division chief of the Planning Commission will be present as special guest.



A short film, titled "Rohosho", was inaugurated on Saturday evening at local Udharn Public Library Auditorium. The event included a display and exchange of views. Organised by Infrequency Creation, the event was addressed by well-known dramatist and organiser Shamol Bhattacharjee.

Rajan Das Rah paints a pretty picture



AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Poverty has not demoralised young painter Rajan Das Rah. A student of class 12 at Mymensingh College in the town, he aspires to be a sculptor as well. In fact, he has crafted a sculpture of a "Matsya Kannya" (mythical woman in the shape of a fish) which cost him very little but is a major attraction for visitors.

His passion for painting flowered under the guidance of Faysal Ahmed, one of his primary school teachers. Later, he undertook training at Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala (art gallery) in the town under the guidance of Dulal Chandra Gain, the then assistant keeper of the art gallery. He also fashioned clay items as a hobby and sometimes made them for other school students at a small price. The enterprising young boy taught at the art gallery for two years and the gallery authorities paid him for his effort, says a proud Rajan.

Rajan has so far sketched and drawn over 1,000 pictures on different subjects including nature, rivers and the every day life of people. "I am very interested in

becoming a sculptor now and I need training in the art," says Rajan who was inspired by his grandfather Paran Das. The latter used to make clay idols for various festivals like Durga Puja, Swaraswati Puja and Shyama Puja.

Rajan, also a volunteer of Shanti Mitra Samaj Kallayan Sangshila, a local non-government organisation says he is supported by the NGO so that he can continue his painting and education.

"Rajan works for our various publications," says Subarna Poli Drong, coordinator of Shanti Mitra, adding that "We assisted Rajan financially and he made a beautiful sculpture of 'Matsya Kannya'. We are happy to see the talent of the little sculptor. The white sculpture at Shanti Mitra office has charmed visitors."

Dulal Chandra Gain, now a teacher of Fine Arts Faculty of Dhaka University says that Rajan has a undeniable talent for art and during his learning period at the art gallery, proved his genius for such creative work.

"If the poor boy is adequately supported, he could go a long way in this field," says, Gain.

AHM Motalab, a senior journalist and secretary of Alokhitra Shilpi Sangsad says that Rajan's talent should be supported.

Beetle Baily by Mort Walker

Henry by Don Trachte

ETV	11:30 Ekushey-er Business	09:05 Crime Fiction
	07:50 Fashion and Tune	04:20 Fox Movies
	08:20 Drama Serial: Ohongkar	Don't Be Afraid of the Dark
	10:10 Docu-drama: Charge Sheet Report	07:00 Spider-Man
		09:05 Spider-Man 3
		11:25 The Ugly Truth
Boishakhi TV	09:10 Bangla Feature Film	HBO
	04:00 Shorashor Doctor	12:15 Pitch Black
	05:20 Dance Programme	05:25 From Paris with Love
	08:00 Drama Serial: Borobair Chhoti Bou	07:20 Transporter 3
		09:30 Waterworld
BANGLAVISION	01:05 Bangla Feature Film	Star World
	04:20 Amader Rangnagar	04:30 Once Upon A Time
	06:25 Front Line	09:30 Junior Master Chef Australia
	11:25 Music Club	10:30 Grey's Anatomy (Season 3)
Desh TV	03:00 Gaan R Gaan	11:30 Two And A Half Men
	05:00 Durpath	Discovery Channel
	07:45 Drama Serial: Saatkahan	05:00 Man vs. Wild
	09:45 Bodle Jao Bodle Dao Michhil	08:00 How we Invented TV World
Maasranga Television		09:00 Year in the Wild
DRAMA SERIAL		
ATN BANGLA	08:15pm Generation Next Dot	
CHANNEL 1	09:20pm To Company	
	09:35pm Boeing 757	
ntv	09:45pm Shunno Shuntikan	
ETV	09:30pm Karnai	
Boishakhi TV	09:20pm Ognipath	
BANGLAVISION	08:15pm Side Effect	
	08:15pm Radio Chocolate	
	08:40pm Maasranga Television Khonkhaloy	
	08:40pm Naqark	
	08:40pm Gtv	
NEWS BULLETIN		
BTV	News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 9pm.	Boishakhi TV
CHANNEL 1	News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm.	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 9pm.
ATN BANGLA	News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm.	News (English) at 9am, 6pm.
CHANNEL 9	News (English) at 9am, 6pm.	BANGLAVISION
ntv	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm.	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.
ETV	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm.	News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm.
Boishakhi TV	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm.	Rtv
	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.	News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm.
	News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.	Desh TV
	News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.
	News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.	Maasranga Television
	News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.	News (Bangla) at 7pm, 1am.
TALK SHOW		
ATN BANGLA	12:00am Zero Hour	
CHANNEL 1	12:30am Lead News	
	01:00am Ono Dosti	
ntv	12:30am Ei Shomoy	
Boishakhi TV	11:00pm Reporters Dairy	
ETV	12:00am Ekushey-er Raat	
ntv	12:30am Our Democracy	
Boishakhi TV	12:00am Modhyastr	
	11:00pm Reporters Dairy	