

WHAT'S ON
Chobi Mela VII
Festival of Photography
Organiser: Dhaka Gallery and Patshala

Amor Ekushey Book Fair
Venue: Bangla Academy
Premises, Dhaka
Date: Feb 1-28
Time: 3-8pm (Sun-Thu) & 11am-8pm (Fri & Sat)

Book Launch
Book: Rabindranath-e Geetaniya
Organiser: Nityachal & Manwa Brothers

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Equation of Time and Art
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60 Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1

Photography Exhibition
Photographers: Six Australian Photo Media Artists
Title: Dialogue

Group Exhibition
Title: Love is in the Air
Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts, AI Heights, Cha-72/7/D, Progoti Shorani, Uttar Badda

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Sewing Miniature
Venue: Gallery Cosmos 2, H-115, Rd-6, New DOHS, Mohakhali

National Street Theatre Festival
Organiser: Bangladesh Group Theatre Festival

CHOBI MELA VII
The vulnerable faces of human existence, revolution

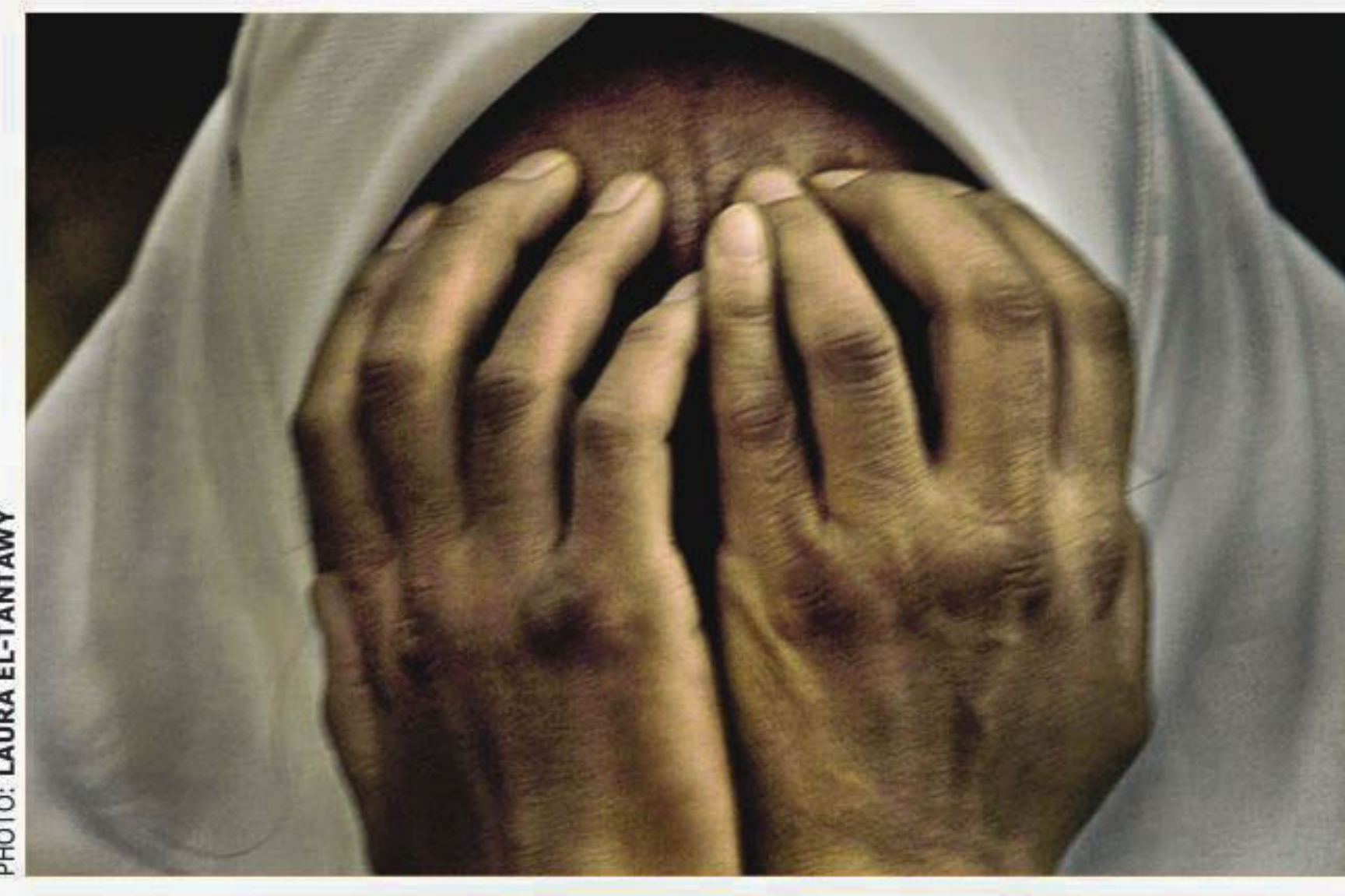
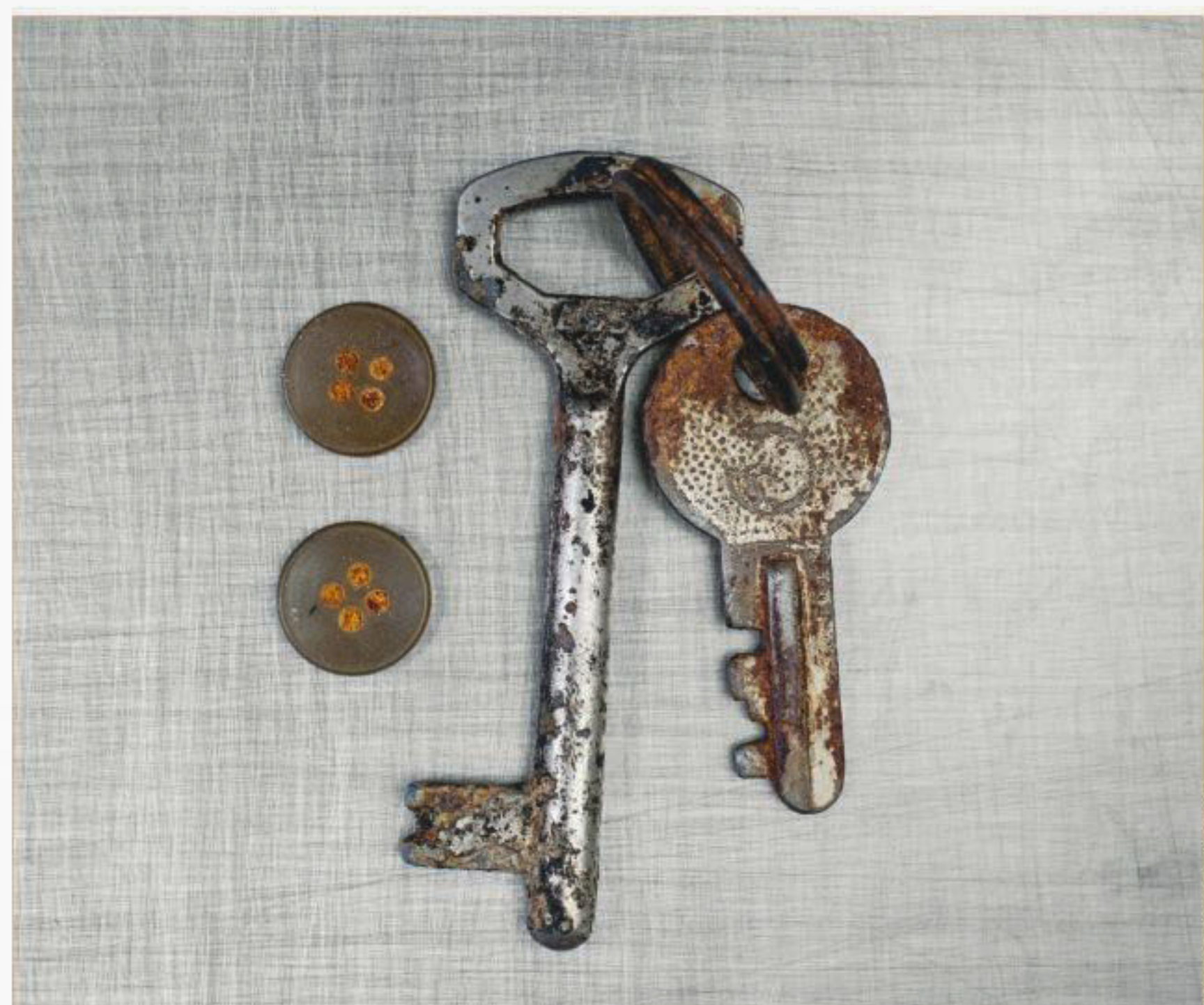


PHOTO: LAURA EL-TANTAWY

KARIM WAHEED
The first thing I noticed at the Laura El-Tantawy exhibition -- at National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy -- is the image of an elderly woman's face. It's hard not to notice: the blown up photo is larger than life, and the face is too powerful with wrinkles, slightly downward gaze and the very visible tear trickling down from the left eye. Some teenagers decided to pose in front of it, asking their friends to take pictures.

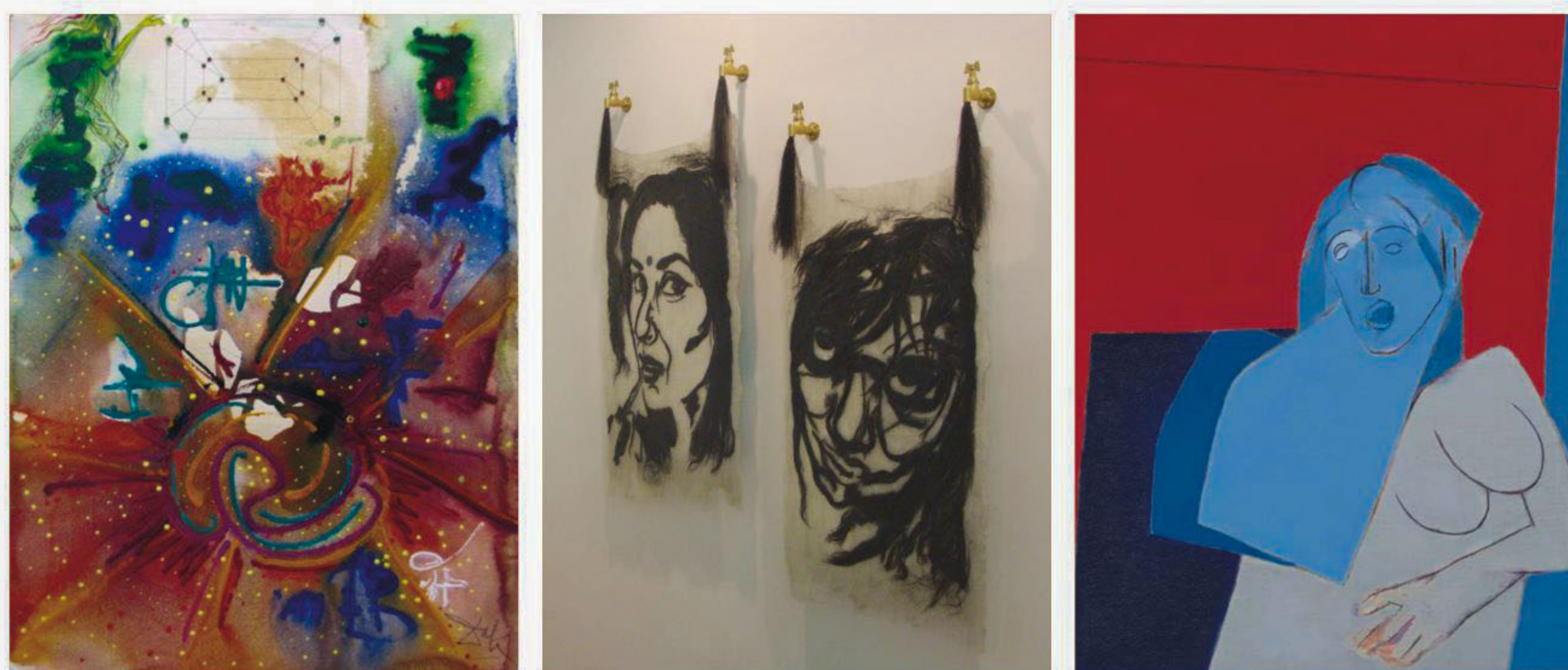
vulnerable. In that sense these two exhibitions are rightfully part of Chobi Mela VII, the theme of which is 'fragility'. Laura El-Tantawy is an Egyptian photojournalist and artist based in London, England. Her work has been published and exhibited in the United States, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. El-Tantawy's work is part of a larger series exploring Egypt's process of forming its identity. The work started in 2005 and has since expanded to look at the trials and tribulations of a nation in transition -- the time of Mubarak, the revolution, and the looming future. The series focuses on images of Egyptians -- reflective of the country's current fragile state as it experiences political, social and economic turmoil. The images were taken at Tahrir Square, in Cairo, which has now become a symbol of a nation's struggle for democracy and dignity, a struggle for identity. About her work El-Tantawy says, "...In Tahrir Square I saw the impact of Mubarak's failed policies on the people. I saw our fragility exposed: Grown man wept like children and young women



Human existence and revolutions are vulnerable. In that sense these two exhibitions are rightfully part of Chobi Mela VII, the theme of which is 'fragility'.

fought like old men. In Tahrir I saw an awakening of emotions I thought had long disappeared from our psyche as Egyptians." Ziyah Gafic was born in Sarajevo, where he graduated in Comparative Literature. Since 1999 he has been travelling extensively and covered major events in more than forty countries. Gafic's exhibition features images of everyday objects -- clocks, keys, combs, glasses -- that the victims of the Bosnian genocide carried with them on their final journey. During the four-year long conflict in the 1990s, approximately 30,000 citizens went missing; all presumably killed. As part of the process of identifying those who disappeared, personal belongings found with the victims' remains have been collected by the Bosnian Government's Institute for Missing People. Gafic has photographed every single item exhumed from the mass graves in order to create a visual archive that survivors could easily browse. The objects are not only a means of identifying victims but are also used as forensic evidence in the ongoing war crimes trials. The fact that some of the victims carried personal items, such as toothpaste and a toothbrush, is a clear sign that they had no idea what was about to happen to them. These objects are the last permanent reminders that these people ever existed. Though Chobi Mela VII had its concluding programme yesterday, the exhibitions will continue till February 7.

5TH INDIA ART FAIR
South Asia in Focus



Artworks by (from left) Salvador Dali, Mohammad Wahiduzzaman and Tyeb Mehta.

TAKIR HOSSAIN, back from New Delhi
The language of art has gradually become one of the most communicative expressions in the cultural world. It creates bridges between nations, artists and people. India Art Fair's fifth edition signifies how art is related to time and space. The fair was held from February 1 to 3 at NSIC Exhibition Grounds, Okhla Industrial Estate in New Delhi. The fair brought together 105 galleries from 24 countries, showcasing 1000 artists from India and across the globe. For Bangladesh, this year's fair was significant as Samdani Art Foundation represented four contemporary Bangladeshi artists: Mahbubur Rahman, Tayeba Begum Lipi, Mohammad Wahiduzzaman and Ayesha Sultana. The participation has given an opportunity to the artists to find a place in the international art scene. Last year, Samdani Art Foundation organised the Dhaka Art Summit, which was lauded by the international art circuit. Among the Bangladeshi artists, Mohammad Wahiduzzaman and Mahbubur Rahman's works were in focus for their distinctive presentations. Wahiduzzaman is greatly inspired by Pop Art and his works denote social, political and cultural dilemmas. At the fair, his conceptual work focused on two female visages that

depict duality. The artist feels that women are often presented as "commodities" in TV commercials. Delhi Art Gallery, one of the foremost participating galleries at the fair, featured the works of a number of painters of the Calcutta Group and Bombay Progressive Artists Group (Delhi). The gallery has become distinguished for its focus on 20th century Indian art. Its collections range from the early-moderns to the moderns, including all the masters and contemporary artists. SH Raza is the lone surviving member of the six founders of the path-breaking Bombay Progressive Artists Group, which shaped the course of modern art in India. He is best known for his series of paintings titled, "Bindu" -- a symbol of celestial and artistic imagination. At the fair, his oil painting "Untitled" represents his fascination for abstraction. The painting is imbued with amorphous forms and vivid colours. Ganesk Pyne's eerie images of distressing figures and a terrible ambience draw the attention to a world beyond the familiar. He has done very few works and been collectors wait years for a single piece of his creations. Akar Prakar Gallery, Kolkata showed Somnath Hore prints. His prints feature the disadvantaged people. Their destitution and struggles are recurring subjects of his works. Most of his prints are technically outstanding and he made great efforts toward demonstrating the

torments of the masses. Exhibit 320 showed works of Delhi-based young artist Sachin George Sebastian. He is a keen observer of contemporary life. He has worked with archival paper and has created floral, architectural and structural imagery. Mumbai-based artist Jitish Kallat's "Covering Letter" -- a hazy screen project, was one of the major attractions at the fair. Working across a variety of media, his conceptual work mirrors an insightful involvement with the city, where he was born and raised. At the fair, he has used different materials like fibre glass and tinted light bulbs. Visitors walked through his dark tunnel-like covering letter, based on the Mahatma Gandhi's letter to Adolf Hitler in 1939. Nature Morte, a New Delhi and Berlin-based gallery, featured Subodh Gupta's installations. In his installations, Gupta has used mundane steel and kitchen tools. The tiffin carriers have been used by millions to carry their lunches. From such ordinary items the artist produces installations that reflect on the economic transformation of his homeland. More than 50 international exhibitors brought a wide and diverse selection of works by Asian and Western artists including original art of Salvador Dali, Pablo Picasso, Joan Miro, Marc Chagall, Claudio Massani, Andy Warhol and others.

National Street Theatre Fest at Central Shaheed Minar



"Protibad" is among five plays staged on day four. PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The weeklong National Street Theatre Festival 2013 is currently being held at the Central Shaheed Minar premises in Dhaka. The festival was inaugurated on February 1 with the staging of several street plays. Former Chief Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman formally inaugurated the festival.

Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation has been organising the festival. The festival features nearly 40 plays by troupes from and outside Dhaka. Everyday a significant number of audiences gather at the venue to watch the plays bearing social messages. On day four (February 4), five plays were staged. Kheyali Natya Gosthi staged "Shamprotik Shamachar". Written and directed by AKA Kabir, the story of the play highlights contemporary socio-political issues.

The day's other plays were "Bibaha Prostab" (by Bibartan, Jessore), "Is Mosquito Equal to Man?" (Dhaka Drama), "Protibad" (Shaheed Sufi Natyachakra, Faridpur) and "Khun" (Shanchalak).

Written and directed by Abu Harun, Dhaka Drama's play "Is Mosquito Equal to Man?" narrates social anomalies through the eyes of a mosquito.

On the other hand, written and directed by Brishti Malakar, Shaheed Sufi Natyachakra's play "Protibad" is based on the Liberation War. The story narrates atrocities in 1971 by the Pakistani Army and its local collaborators. The festival will end tomorrow.

Apart from this central festival, a series of divisional festivals will gradually take place in seven cities throughout the month of February. The Dhaka divisional festival will take place in Narayanganj from February 9 to 11 and the Chittagong divisional event will be held in Chittagong city from February 16 to 17.

Painting Exhibition at Dhaka Art Centre

The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Dhaka, in association with the State Bank of India in Bangladesh and the Dhaka Art Centre are organising a nine-day South Asian painting exhibition, titled "Cultural Confluence -- United Colors". The exhibition will be held from February 10 to 18 at the Dhaka Art Centre in Dhanmondi, according to a press release. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) organised an art camp at New Delhi for young artists from South Asian

countries in May 2012. Young painters from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives had participated in the camp. From Bangladesh, three young artists participated in the art camp under full sponsorship of ICCR. About 37 paintings will be displayed at the exhibition. Eminent artist Qayyum Chowdhury will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest. Channel i will be the media partner of the event.

Water, water everywhere

Poetry Slam at Goethe-Institut



Winners with dignitaries at the event. MD MIZANUR RAHMAN HIMADRI

rendered poems themed around 'water' for her piece "Megh", while Mustafizur Rahman was elected 1st runner-up with "Liquid Anticipation" and the 2nd runner-up prize was bagged by Muhammad Al Amin for "Everyday Blues". A separate recitation session was then staged by the artistes of Meghdut. Among others, renowned essayist, critic and poet Professor Kaiser Haq and Judith Mirschberger, director of Goethe-Institut, Dhaka, were present as panel judges.

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Ustad Zakir Hussain arrives in Dhaka

Concert at BICC this evening



STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Tabla maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain has arrived in Dhaka to perform at a concert this evening. The concert -- also featuring Bela Fleck and Edgar Meyer -- will be held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Zakir Hussain, son of tabla legend Alla Rakha, is an iconic figure in the field of percussion. With three Grammys under his belt, he has been equally prolific in the eastern classical and western jazz fusion. Bela Fleck is widely acknowledged as one of the most innovative and technically proficient banjo players. He is best known for his work with the bands New Grass Revival and Bela Fleck and the Flecktones. Edgar Meyer is a contemporary bassist and composer. His styles include classical, bluegrass, newgrass, and jazz. Meyer is noted for achieving virtuosity on an instrument of unusual technical difficulty. Blues Communications is organising the concert. Bengal Music Company is the music partner. The Daily Star is the partner and Airtel is the telecom partner of the event. Gates will open at 6pm.

Bangladesh Idol all set to kick off

Registration for musical reality show begins tomorrow
"Bangladeshi Idol", the local version of the world's most popular and successful television reality show, was launched last month in Dhaka amid much anticipation, and the wait is over for prospective participants to get a move on. A press release informed that any Bangladeshi citizen between the age of 18 and 28 can register for the primary audition round, via SMS, phone call or through registration forms from tomorrow. Further details of registration will soon be available on TV and newspaper adverts, as well as on social networking hub Facebook. Delta Bay Distribution and Production are organising the show, one of the most successful international franchises in TV history that has aired more than 129 series in 43 territories. Ferdousi Rahman, Andrew Kishore, Ayub Bachchu and Mehreen will be the judges at the competition.

Beetle Baily by Mort Walker
THERE GOES THAT SNOOTY LT. FUZZ SNUBBING US AGAIN



I LOVE CATCHING A WHIFF OF MISS BUXLEY'S PERFUME AS I PASS BY HER WINDOW!



Henry by Don Trachte
READ "HOW TO INFLUENCE OTHER PEOPLE"

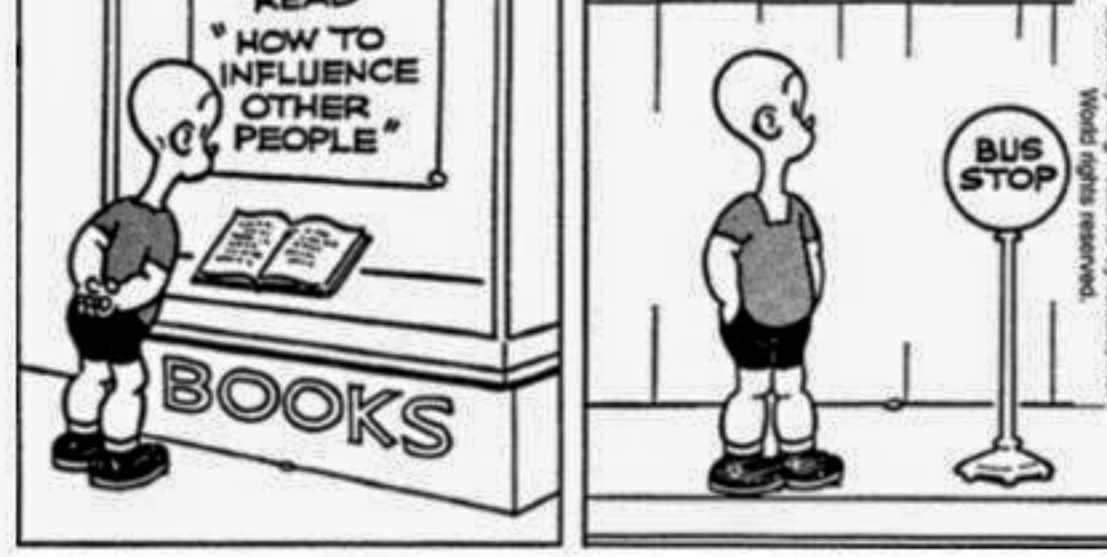


Table listing TV channels and their programs: BTv (Chitra Mela, Drama Serial), Desh TV (Gaan R Gaan, Drama Serial), Maaranga Television (Bangla Feature Film), CHANNEL 9 (Bangla Feature Film), rntv (Biz Time, Bangla Feature Film), ntv (Biz Time, BPL 2013, PowerVoice), CHANNEL 24 (Bangla Feature Film, BPL 2013, PowerVoice)

Table listing radio stations and their programs: abc radio FM 89.2 (Eski Doka, Kacha Lanika, Mita Kora, CP Lawach, Megh Barata, Adda, Rock of Ages, Hoho 89.20, Radio Footi), RADIO 10.00 (Morning Express, No Tension, Dhaka Calling, Knight Riders, RADIO TODAY FM 89.6, Green FM, Good Morning Dhaka, Today's Adda, U-Turn, Today Tai Hok, Raat Bhai Gaan)



Table listing ETV and Gtv channels and their programs: ETV (Ekushey-er Business, Fashion and Tune, Drama Serial: Sakhe Thakle Bhatte Kilai, Docu-drama: Charge Sheet Report), Gtv (Stuart Little, Stuart Little 2, Drive, The Entitled, Johny English, Reborn, Evert Horizon, Transporter 3, 10,000 BC, Star World, Arrow, Melissa & Joey, Packed to the Rafters, Greys Anatomy, Discovery Channel, Wild Discovery)

Table listing Boishakhi TV channels and their programs: Boishakhi TV (Bangla Feature Film, Shorashon Doctor, Drama Serial: Borobari Chhoti Bua, Glamour Guide), Fox Movies (Stuart Little, Stuart Little 2, Drive, The Entitled, Johny English, Reborn, Evert Horizon, Transporter 3, 10,000 BC, Star World, Arrow, Melissa & Joey, Packed to the Rafters, Greys Anatomy, Discovery Channel, Wild Discovery)

Table listing BANGLAVISION channels and their programs: BANGLAVISION (Bangla Feature Film, Nacho Bangladesh, Music Club), Star World (Arrow, Melissa & Joey, Packed to the Rafters, Greys Anatomy, Discovery Channel, Wild Discovery)

Table listing ATN BANGLA channels and their programs: ATN BANGLA (9:25am 10 To Company, 11:30am Rohini, 9:45pm Shuanno Shumikan), BANGLAVISION (8:15pm Generation Next, 11:30pm Dot, 8:15pm Makrasha), rntv (9:45pm Shuanno Shumikan), ETV (8:20pm Bhumradah College), Boishakhi TV (11:45pm 6:45pm, 7:30pm, 7:45pm, 11:45pm, 11:55pm, 12:02am, 12:05am)

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