

WHAT'S ON

Theatre
Play: Koinnya
Troupe: Natyasa
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: April 3

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Alakesh Ghosh
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, Rd-7/A, Dhanomdi
Date: Mar 29-Apr 7
Time: 3-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Pop Wallah
Artist: Jon Den Hartigh
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60, Gulshan Avenue, Circle T, Dhaka
Date: Mar 29-Apr 7

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: The Body & Soul of the Insignificant
Artist: Tasaddul Hossain Dalu
Venue: Bengal Shilpaya, H-42, Rd-16(Nw), Dhanomdi
Date: April 2-11, Time: 12pm-8pm

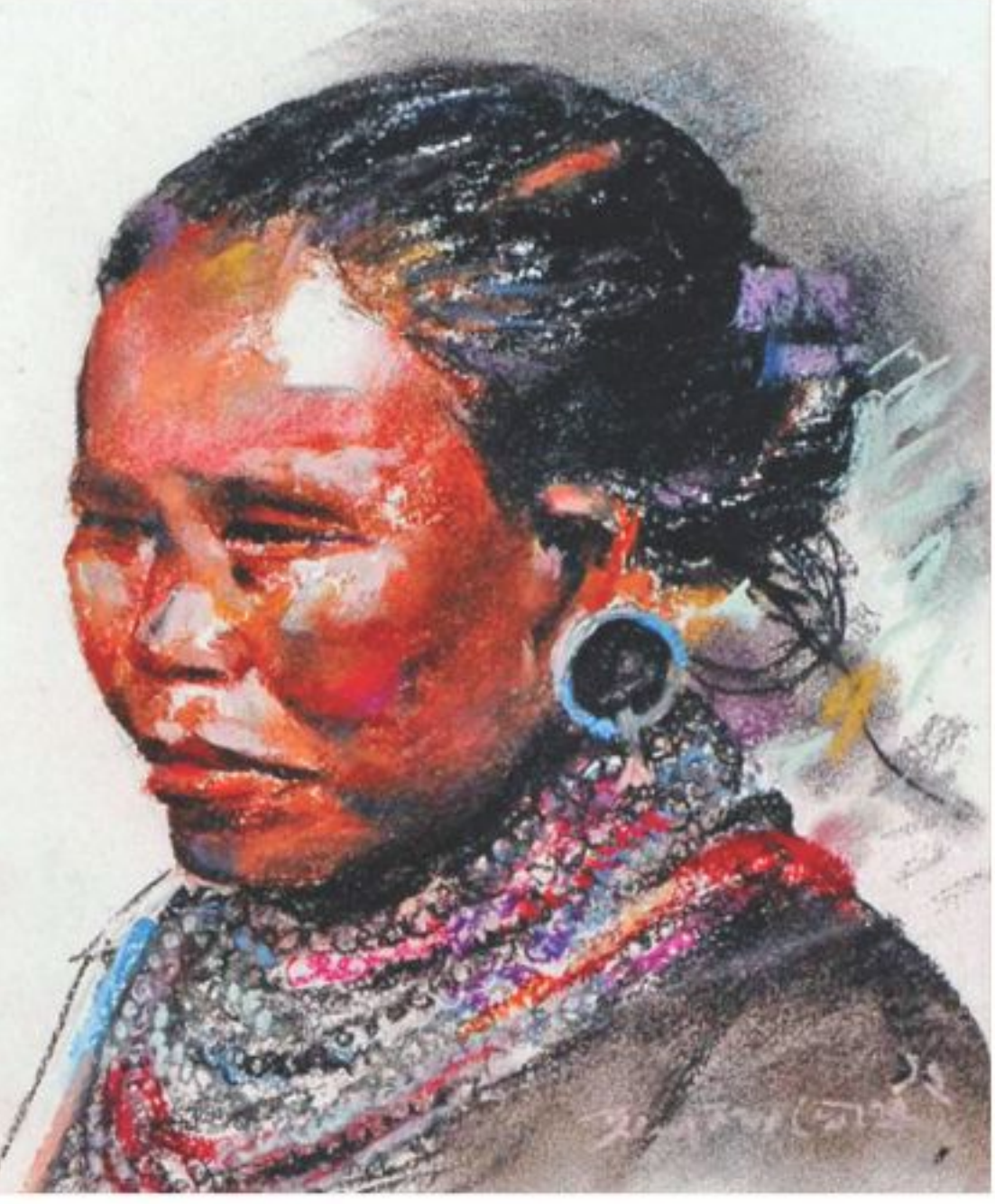
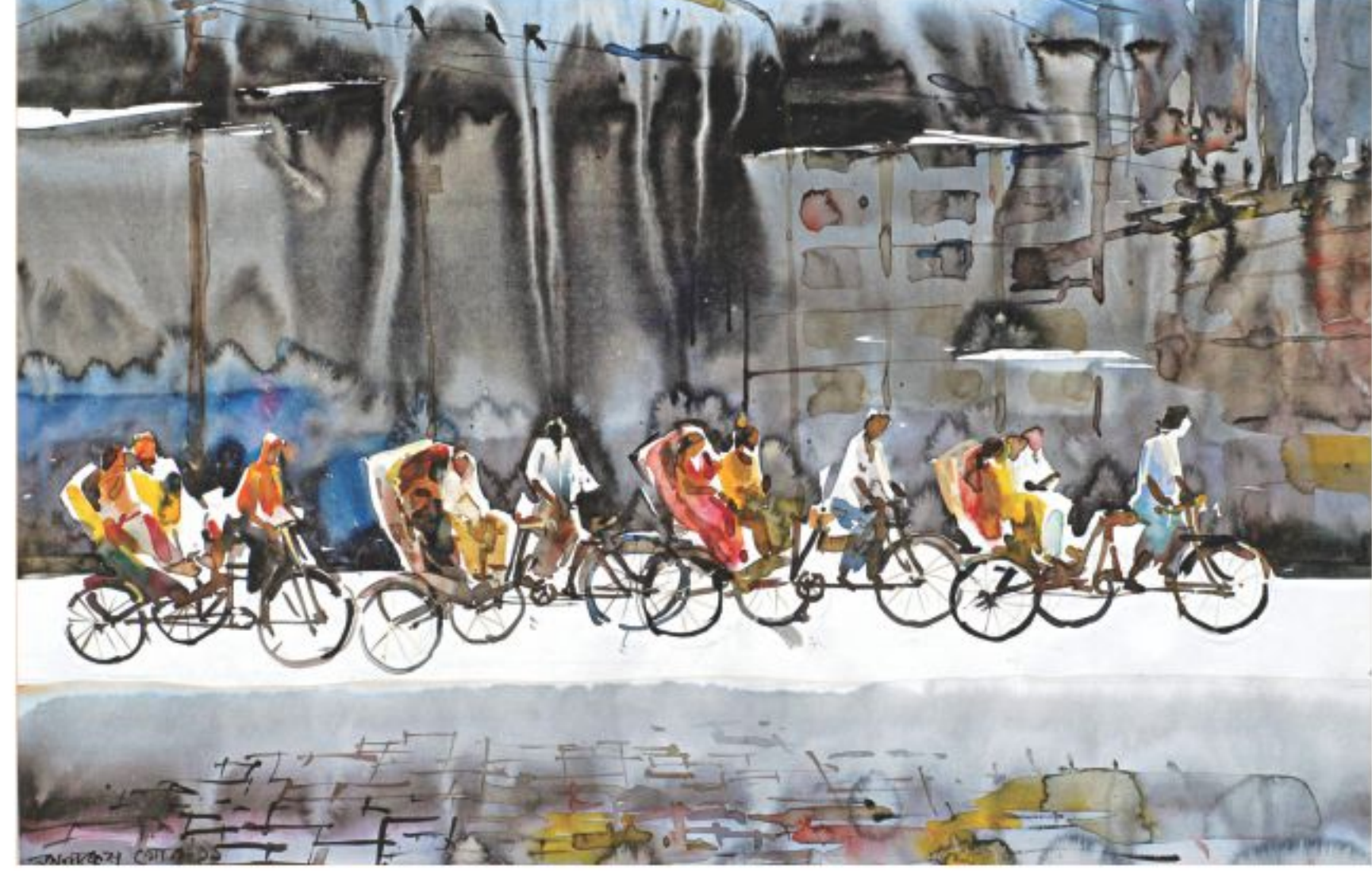
Photography Exhibition
Title: Patterns of Life
Photographer: Saud Al Faisal
Venue: Kozmo Wisdom Cafe (on Bachchanchara Exit Road)
Date: March 26-April 2;

Photography Exhibition
Title: Bangladesh: My Love
Photographer: Moududul Alam
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, Rd-7/A, Dhanomdi
Date: March 29-April 8

Children's Art Exhibition
Title: Shishuraj Sundor
Venue: Drik Gallery, H-58, R-15A (New), Dhanomdi
Date: March 30-April 3
Time: 3pm-8pm

A pied piper with paint

Solo art exhibition by **Alakesh Ghosh**



FAYZA HAQ
Alakesh Ghosh's solo painting exhibition is on at the Dhaka Art Centre -- a collection as scintillating as ever. He excels in landscapes, especially the delineation of Old Dhaka with its winding lanes and line-up of rickshaws; the beauty and unique ability of the three-wheeled means of transport are revealed from the back and sides. The colours that reign here range from jet-black to earthy shades like brown, orange and red. The pearly and sooty blacks serve as backdrops, which please the art buff and draw crowds to the four exhibit rooms.
He also captures the magic of the ruins of Panamnagar, which he presents in minute detail, pouring in his passion and observation. His paintbrush glides and swirls to bring in the magic of the buildings and the people who co-exist in harmony and happiness despite the overcrowding. The details of the doors, windows, balconies and frescoes of Panamnagar are remarkable. "Turag River" and "Chao", which are water-colour on paper, remind one of Turner and Constable, and even the Dutch master painter Ruisdael.
The colours are pristine and perfect -- bringing in the barges, while the houses and trees are at the back with the grey-purple bars of the sky. The splashing of the

figures on the waterfront and the waves in the river can almost be heard and felt -- such is the impact of the iridescent whites and grey, mixed with shades of orange and red.
His "Ahsan Manzil" and "Mymensingh Rail Station" are done in black and grey, with some occasional highlights in brown and red along with pale jade. They depict electrical poles the iron rails and the buildings in the station. Trees, covered with lemon green young leaves have been brought in too. "Ahsan Manzil" has the tiny domes, pillars and whitewashed walls standing in blissful harmony with the marketplace, which is thoughtfully placed along with the vendors and buyers.
Alakesh is magnificent with his portraits; one of them in pastel in burnt umber. Black and the multicoloured necklaces of beads, apart from the heavy silver earrings, make it remarkable. The pictures bring in smiles and squints with exquisite accuracy. He has done many portraits of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, seen laughing or wrapped in smiles. His presentation of Rabindranath Tagore, done in egg yellow and white, with a red flower included with its petals is eye-catching too. "My Poet" is done in acrylic on canvas. His sketches of cats -- one has heard that he has them as pets -- are as good as his flamboyant presentation of soaring birds.

Alakesh excels in landscapes, especially the delineation of Old Dhaka with its winding lanes and line-up of rickshaws.

For the Love of Dance

Profile of an aspiring dancer, **Maleeha Mazen Khan**

NAZIBA BASHER
Nityanchal and the Indian High Commission's cultural centre.
With a desire to learn from videos of Indian classical dance, she came across one in particular -- of Odissi. The softness of the dance form grabbed her attention. She immediately sought to learn the form and joined Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA) to complete a diploma course. At BAFA, she started taking lessons in Manipuri dance from Warda Rihab and in Odissi from Benazir.
"My breakthrough was a performance at the Uday Shankar Festival in Kolkata where I took part in a dance-drama called "Hey Ananta Punya" as a Buddhist priestess, another important character that had very challenging choreography, that too in front of a very discerning audience. The dance-drama was produced by Shadhona and directed by Warda Rihab."
It took her a while, but she soon realised that her body was most adaptable to Manipuri. She then joined Dhriti, a dance school run by Warda Rihab, and took part in a lot of dance-dramas, including "Tasher Desh" (as Ishkaboni) by Shadhona, choreographed by Warda Rihab.
"As part of the dance school, we gave several performances in the country and abroad on occasions such as Tagore's 150th birth anniversary celebration in Delhi. We represented Bangladesh at the World Expo 2012 in South Korea. I look forward to dancing with a great trainer and an accomplished dancer, Warda Rihab. And I hope to give more time and full devotion to this art form even if my days are getting busier."



PHOTO: REDWAN ADIB RUPON

Kanthabithi participates in West Bengal festival



Artistes of Kanthabithi performing in the production, "Ami Ki Temon Santan".

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura
Members of Kanthabithi, a Magura-based organisation of elocutionists, performed at a two-day recitation festival, held at Pashkura Rabindra-Nazrul Mancha, in East Medinipur, West Bengal.
On the first day of the festival, artistes of Kanthabithi performed a recitation production, titled "Ami Ki Temon Santan", composed and directed by Mazharul Haque on March 23. The elocutionists of Kanthabithi also gave solo performances on the second day of the festival.
Eminent poet Subodh Sarkar inaugurated the festival arranged by Sanchayita Abriti Prashikkhan Kendra of East Medinipur. A nine-member team of Kanthabithi participated at the festival. The nine members of the team are: Mazharul Haque Lipu, Tushar Prashun, Rashedul Islam, Riazuul Islam, Anichur Rahman, Abdus Selim, Ohidul Islam, Sultana Zahan Urmy and Sreya Ghosh.
Poet Subodh Sarkar and Khan Mazharul Haque Lipu as well as the organising secretary of the central Abriti Samannoy Parishad (ASP) who hailed from Magura were also accorded a reception at the festival.

Dance Festival welcomes spring

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna
Gontobbo, a dance institute of the district, greeted the season of spring with a dance festival in Pabna on Saturday. The programme was held at the Pabna Town Hall premises on Saturday night. A discussion also featured on the occasion.
President of the institution Bodrun Nahar chaired the programme, while among those who spoke were educationist Abdul Matin Khan; president of Pabna district unit of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote, Faridul Islam Khokon; secretary Mahabubul Alam Liton and prominent dancer of the district Muntakim Md. Ibrahim Tonmoy, also key organiser of the festival.
The speakers focused on the heritage of spring celebration.
Spring is the season of rebirth and regeneration. Spring often features in Bengali literature. In the past many cultural programmes were themed on spring but this tradition is fading away, said the speakers. Through the dance festival, Gontobbo has moved to recall that tradition.
Among the artistes, Autonon, Shinchon, Shithi, Aunti, Chhoa, Rijhi, Konka, Prapti, Adrita, Mayesha, Dipu performed traditional dances of spring. Prominent dance artistes of the district Muntakim Md. Ibrahim Tonmoy and Azma Shanu conducted the show.



A performance by members of Gontobbo.

Historic Berlin Wall section removed amid protests

A German property developing firm has removed parts of a historic stretch of the Berlin Wall amid heavy police presence, despite a week of protests. Builders removed four segments of the so-called East Side Gallery stretch recently to open access to a building site for blocks of flats.
The re-development project has sparked outrage among citizen groups, who say the site is a symbol of freedom.
Workers tried to dismantle the segments on March 1 but were forced to halt their plans when angry demonstrators blocked their path. Another small part of the stretch has already been removed.
Set on the banks of the River Spree, the East Side Gallery is the Wall's longest remaining stretch, measuring 1.3km (0.9 miles).
It became one of the city's most visited attractions in the early 1990s after international artists painted its concrete surfaces with strong images.

Source: BBC

Beetle Baily
by Mort Walker
TAKE THAT! POW!
BOING
HOW DO YOU BOUNCE BACK LIKE THAT?
THAT'S HOW I ROLL

Henry
by Don Trachte
AQUARIUM HOURS 9 TO 5
EXIT
9-5

Tête-à-Tête

Prasun Azad: "I want to stick to acting"

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Among thousands of contestants in the 2012 edition of Lux Channel i Superstar competition, Prasun Azad, from Mymensingh's Fulpur, stood in a class of her own, and claimed a spot in the top ten. As the pageant progressed, she strengthened her claim and emerged as the first runner up in the final round.
In the following months, Prasun has been busy working in TV dramas, along with acting in a film. Asked about her goals, Prasun answers that she intends to do work that will be remembered by the audience for many years to come.
Although she is serious about her work in the media, Prasun started her journey in this direction just to kindle an interest. She says, "I enjoyed this show for a long time before signing up myself. My dreams began back then."
Most of her recent TV works are in one-hour-shorts and tele-films. "I'm not working in serials at the moment, but I would be interested in a suitable role in a good serial," Prasun adds.
She has recently appeared in two episodes of the serial "Great Mistake". "The drama 'Great Mistake' features a different story in each episode. My work has been in accordance with that," says Prasun.
Prasun has also finished shooting for Sazzad Sumon's new drama "Notun Balika", as well as playing the eponymous role in Toufique Rahman's one-hour-short "Ananya".
Prasun Azad's first TV drama was Animesh Aich's "Ekti Mrityur Shopno", which got much positive feedback from the audience. She also managed to grab the attention of many directors through her performance.
Prasun says she is enjoying her latest work in "Mukhosher Meye", a TV play by Azad Kalam.
She has earned much praise for her portrayal of a Birangona in the Channel 24 drama "Chithhi", written by Bipasha Hayat and directed by Tauquir Ahmed.
She has also made her debut on the silver screen with the movie "Feel My Love," where she plays an RJ.
Although she grabbed her place in the spotlight through Lux Channel i Superstar, Prasun participated as a contestant in the singing section of Notun Kuri. The star however adds the caveat, "I don't sing any more; I want to stick to acting. I don't have any dreams besides the world of acting."



PHOTO: ATL AKASH

Path Natya Utsab concludes

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh
A two day "Path Natya Utsab" marking Independence Day and World Theatre Day concluded at Town Hall Shaheed Minar on Friday night.
The festival began with the staging of "Kheyapa Paglar Pachyal", a famous play based on the Liberation War. Staged by Ensemble Theatre, the play drew a huge audience at every show. Written by SM Solaiman the play was directed by Abul Mansur.
On the inaugural day, Baburupi Natya Sangstha staged "Harmad", written and directed by Shahadat Hossain Khan Hilu. On the concluding day, Sareng Theatre, a prominent drama troupe staged "Ekje Chhilo Shonar Koinnya".
Written by Rezwon Hasan Sumon and directed by Gazi Manik, the comedy received a resounding applause.
Jhilik Natya Sangstha also staged SM Solaiman's "Kheyapa Paglar Pachyal" directed by Sikder Mahmud.
The festival ended with a performance



The festival marked Independence Day and World Theatre Day.