

WHAT'S ON



Syed Shamsul Haq Natya Utsab
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: Apr 19-27
Time: 6pm

Solo Art Exposition
Title: Existence... The End
Organiser: Samdani Art Foundation
Artist: Khaleel Hsuan
Date: Apr 12-19
Time: 3-8pm

Existence... The End



Mask Exhibition
Title: Masks of Bangladesh
Venue: Gallery Jalrong, Niketan
Date: Apr 12-25
Time: 10am-8pm



Tagore Song, Sarod Recital & Reitation
Organiser: Delivsta Foundation
Venue: Music and Dance Centre, Shilpakala
Date: April 19



Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Rafiqun Nabi
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, Rd-7/A, Dhanomondi
Date: April 12-22
Time: 3pm-8pm



Album Launch
Album: Nishi Nijhum
Artist: Nasima Shaheen Fancy
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H-42, Rd-27, Dhanomondi
Date: April 19



Group Art Exhibition & Inauguration of the Gallery
Gallery 21
Venue: Satmasjid Road, Dhanomondi
Date: April 5-30

Rafiqun Nabi maintains relevance, brilliance



TAKIR HOSSAIN

Rafiqun Nabi is a veteran landscape and figurative painter. His works reflect an artist's reactions to the mysteries of nature. Sharp shadows and melting tones give his paintings a transcendental appeal. Nabi feels that landscape paintings have an ethereal touch.

His current solo exhibition is now on at Dhaka Art Centre in Dhanomondi. Nabi uses his landscapes and figurative paintings to evoke memories of the past. The noted painter still recollects the mem-



tain language for describing the stories; as part of his experiment, he has been eagerly studying movements of figures and arrangements of compositions for a long time. In this sense, he is very meticulous about his composition and arrangement of figures. The painter is known for his subtle approach. His works are seemingly time-consuming and the artist goes great lengths to detail his subjects.

Nabi is a family-oriented man by nature, which shows in his works. A number of his paintings depict happy family life. The figures are superbly drawn and their facial expressions carry jovial mood. He portrays parents and their children with a realistic approach. The paintings' backgrounds are engrossed with large compositions and diverse vague forms, which carry his personal hallmark. These works remind us of our family values and the importance of bonding.

The exhibition also shows how Nabi's growing focus on the synergy between human beings and nature, which heartens the everyday life of people living in the rural areas. Despite the painter's avoidance of the metropolitan setting, however, one feels that the paintings are a nostalgic wish-fulfillment of someone who has seen the inevitable march of urbanisation that now threatens to intrude into the rural terrains.

Nabi is an artist who adheres to experimental realism. Mingling romanticism and impressionism, at times, the artist

also portrays urban milieu where architectural lines and thorough use of space are highlights. At the exhibition, a number of paintings where blue, yellow, yellowish-brown, crimson, black and green have been primarily used, are on display. His continuous changes in his compositions make his works interesting and impressionistic. The artist also arranges motifs in different combinations according to light and shade. The manner of drawing is a predominant aspect in his paintings. From the onset, Nabi has emphasised on drawings, particularly still life: subject study and pastoral atmosphere have always been highlighted in his works. The painter feels that drawings are a reflection of personal observations of an artist. It is the fundamental foundation of art.

Nabi started drawing in his childhood. In the early 1950s, his father took him to a painting exhibition, held at the then Bardhaman House (currently Bangla Academy). Realising his passion for art, his family decided to enrol him at the art college after matriculation. He got admission at the then College of Arts and Crafts (now Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka) and completed his Bachelors and Masters on Fine Arts. Later he joined the institute as a teacher. From 1973 to 1976, he studied printmaking in Athens School of Fine Arts under the Greek Government's postgraduate scholarship.

The exhibition at Dhaka Art Centre ends on April 22.

A subject with flair

A photo shoot with Sumaiya Shimu

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

As there were consecutive hartals nationwide, we had to schedule the photo shoot with Sumaiya Shimu on a hartal afternoon. The time was fixed at 4:30pm; the location -- near Shimu's Banani residence.

Empty roads meant it didn't take much time for us to reach the destination. Shimu had told us to call her when we reach her house, and she would come down. She was ready with makeup by the time we reached Banani and made the call.

Shimu came down from her home, Golf Heights, adjacent to the Maasranga TV office, within minutes of the call. She looked angelic in a red dress. Smilingly, she asked me, "Will you be the one taking the photos?"

I told her that our photographer was waiting outside on the street. Meanwhile, many pedestrians gathered curiously when they saw the star on the road. Shimu asked where the photo session would take place, and I answered that the first phase would be on the nearby rail tracks, while another round of photos would be clicked on the newly built flyover.

We started looking for a rickshaw to head for the rail tracks, but someone else beat us to the chase. Luckily, we found a CNG three-wheeler, which rushed us to our destination in five minutes.

Disembarking from the vehicle, Shimu walked to the rail tracks. She carefully checked both ways for any oncoming trains. The pedestrians stared with amazement, as they saw a popular TV star in their midst, without any shooting crew in sight.

One pedestrian said, "Eki, uni toh nayika!" (she is an actress!). Shimu smiled at the remark. The crowd grew larger. Among the greenery on both sides of the tracks, Sumaiya in her red dress looked even more marvelous. She jokingly said, "It will be trouble if a train arrives now."

The photographer looked around and set up his gear for the shots. Shimu also readied herself and asked me to keep a lookout for trains.

The photo session began, and many shots with different poses were taken within a few minutes. The star took breaks between shots to check her appearance in the mirror. She also viewed the snaps on the camera, once a bunch of them had been taken.

A train arrived during the shoot, and the photographer asked Shimu to stand beside the tracks to have the train as the backdrop. She was a little scared to stand so close to a moving train, but she did it anyway and several pictures were taken.

For the second round of photos, Shimu headed back home for a wardrobe change. A rickshaw was called and it took us 30 minutes to make the trip this time. She went up and changed into a pink dress.

Another rickshaw was hired to take us to the nearby flyover. During our rickshaw ride, I asked how many dramas she is currently working on. She told me that she was busy doing four serials: two new ones and the others now being aired.

The rickshaw reached the flyover. She set her hair straight, as a strong breeze ruffled them. The photographer set to work again, as the photo shoot continued till sunset. The passers-by were surprised to find the actress on the road during a hartal. When asked about the hassles of stardom, Shimu answered that she immensely enjoyed her popularity.

On the rickshaw ride back to her place, she informed me that it has been 14 years since she began working in TV dramas.

We went to her home this time, where we were greeted with sherbet and snacks in the living room. While eating, I asked her if she had any plan to tie the knot. She laughed and told me to take it easy on such questions.

The evening settled in as the adda with Sumaiya Shimu continued.s



PHOTO: ATLANKASH

DRAMA SERIAL			
ATN BANGLA	Chhayabrita	Boishakhi TV	Nai
09:15pm		06:20pm	Bhorash
Channel I	Crime Story		Coaching Centre
05:30pm	Roshni	BANGLAVISION	
11:30pm		08:15pm	Dui Takar
ntv	Mayangam	09:45pm	Korta Kahini
08:15pm		08:10pm	Apon Ghor
ETV	Katha Kaaj-e-Mil		
09:30pm			

TALK SHOW			
ATN BANGLA	11:20pm	Ami Ekhon Ki Korbo	
12:30am	Lead News	ntv	
CHANNEL I	11:30pm	Hello America	
09:45am	Trino Matra	Desh TV	
12:00am	Ayes Shongbadpatro	07:45pm	Mukh O
Boishakhi TV			Mukhosata
01:00pm	Hidoye Jummabar	Rtv	
12:00am	Zero Hour	10:40am	Tarekalap
BANGLAVISION		Gtv	

Mayanigam
On ntv at 08:15 pm
TV Serial
Casts: Farah Ruma,
Mahfuz Ahmed



Rush Hour 3
On HBO at 09:30pm
Genre: Action / Comedy / Crime
Cast: Chris Tucker, Jackie Chan, Youki Kudo



Ami Akhon Ki Korbo
On Banglavisat at 11:20pm
Talk Show
Anchor: Sara Zaker



DID YOU KNOW?

Across the Universe

The Beatles' song "Across the Universe", written by John Lennon, was first featured in the 1969 various artists' charity album "No One's Gonna Change Our World". It later came out in a different form in the group's last released album "Let It Be" in 1973.

The flavour of the song is heavily influenced by the band's interest in Transcendental Meditation during the time. The Sanskrit phrase "Jai guru deva om" added in the lyrics became the link to the chorus. The song's lyrical structure is straightforward, and the lyrics are highly image-based, with abstract concepts reified

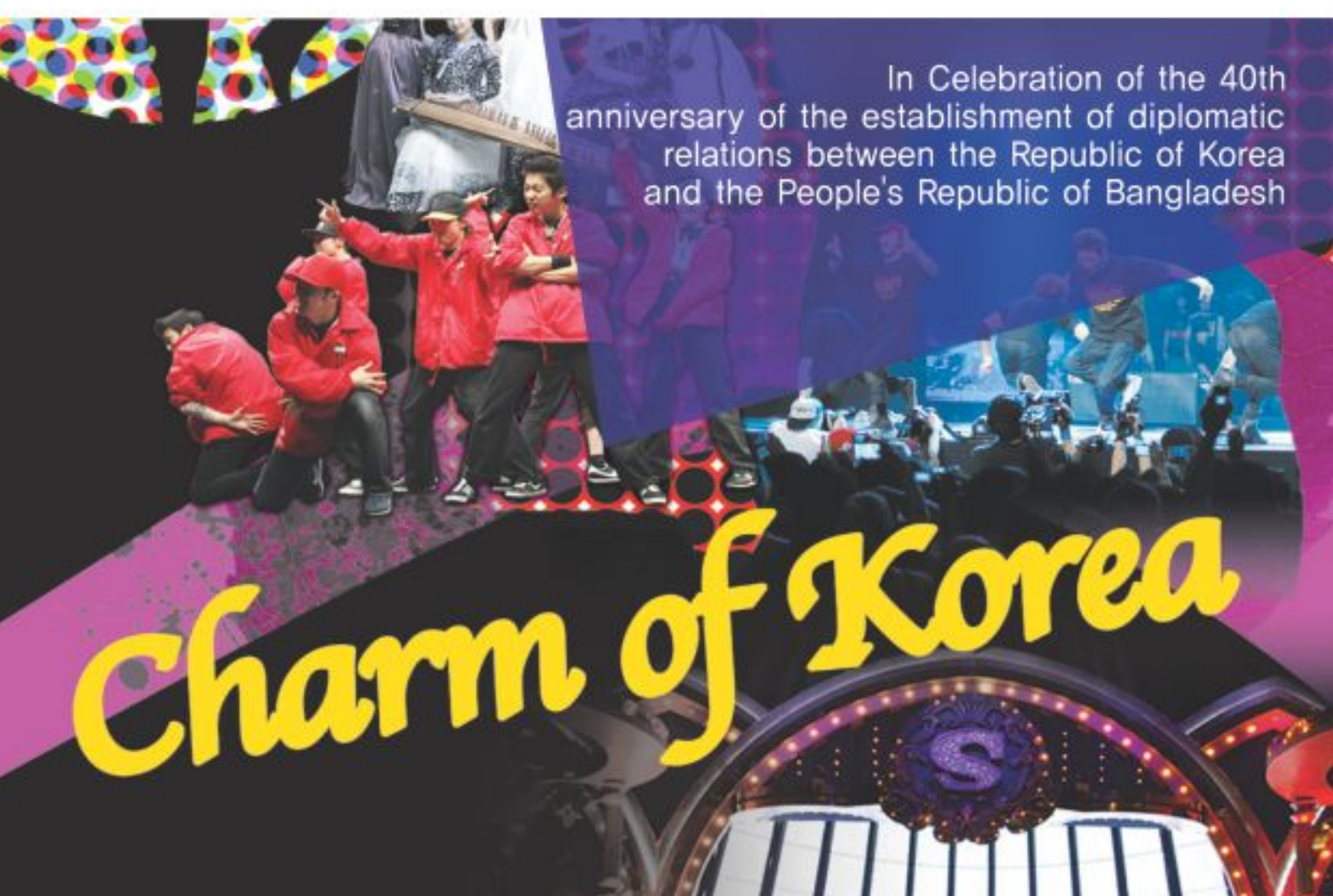


Deep Space Network's Madrid Deep Space Communication Complex in Spain. This was done to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the song's recording, the 45th anniversary of the Deep Space Network, and the 50th anniversary of NASA.

Source: **Internet**

with phrases like thoughts "meandering", words "slithering", and undying love "shining".

On February 4, 2008, NASA transmitted an Interstellar Message in the form of the song in the direction of the star Polaris, 431 light years from Earth. The transmission was made from the



In Celebration of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Charm of Korea

Date and Time : May 2, 2013 / 6:00 p.m.
Venue : Shilpakala Academy (National Theatre Auditorium)
Organized by : Embassy of the Republic of Korea to Bangladesh
Sponsored by : Ministry of Cultural Affairs

Cannes Film Festival line-up announced



Michael Douglas (L) and Matt Damon pair up for "Behind the Candelabra".

"Only God Forgives", the second film from "Drive" partners Ryan Gosling and Nicolas Winding Refn, joins Steven Soderbergh's Liberace biopic in competition at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

US director Steven Spielberg is the head of this year's jury.

The festival runs from 15-26 May.

Soderbergh, who won Cannes' top prize in 1989 for his film "Sex, Lies and Videotape", is back in competition with his eagerly-awaited film "Behind the Candelabra", starring Michael Douglas as the flamboyant entertainer Liberace, who masked his homosexuality from public view. Matt Damon plays his gay lover in the film, made for US cable channel HBO.

James Gray's film "The Immigrant", about a young woman tricked into a life of burlesque and vaudeville, stars Jeremy Renner, Joaquin Phoenix and Oscar-winner Marion Cotillard.

"Inside Llewyn Davis" is the upcoming film written and directed by Joel and Ethan Coen. Set in the 1960s, the film about a young folk singer, stars British

actress Carey Mulligan and Justin Timberlake.

Alexander Payne, who sat on last year's Palme d'Or jury, is in competition this year with his film "Nebraska", about a father and son trekking from the state of Montana to Nebraska to claim some prize money.

Italian director Paolo Sorrentino, who directed Sean Penn as a faded rock star in "This Must Be the Place", is in the running with his film "The Great Beauty".

Controversial Japanese director Takashi Miike's "Straw Shield" is a crime-thriller set in modern day politics while Iranian director, Asghar Farhadi - who won an Oscar for his film A Separation - directs "The Artist" actress Berenice Bejo in his new film "The Past".

Other films in the running for the coveted Palme d'Or include Roman Polanski's "Venus In Fur", "Borgman" by Alex Van Warmerdam, "Just 17" by Francois Ozonm "La Vie D'Adele" by Abdellatif Kechiche, "Like Father Like Son" by Kore-Eda Hirokazu, "Tian Zhu Ding" by Zhangke Jia, "Grisgris" by Mahamat-Saleh Haroun, "The Immigrant" by James Gray, "Heli"

by Amat Escalante, "Jimmy P" by Arnaud Desplechin, "Michael Kohlhaas" by Arnaud des Pallières and "Un Chateau en Italie" by director Valeria Bruni-Tedeschi.

Outside of the films screening in competition are a number of other sections. Harry Potter actress Emma Watson stars in The Bling Ring, the latest film from Sofia Coppola - based on the real-life robberies of celebrity homes in Malibu. It will screen in the "Un Certain Regard" event, as will James Franco's latest directorial effort "As I Lay Dying". The film is based on William Faulkner's 1930 stream of consciousness novel, which is narrated by 15 different characters.

Baz Luhrmann's anticipated "The Great Gatsby", starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Amitabh Bachchan, will open the festival and the closing film is "Zulu", starring Orlando Bloom and Forest Whitaker.

Jerry Lewis, the US comedy star of the 1950s and 60s, who later poured his efforts into raising money for muscular dystrophy research, will get a special tribute at this year's event.

Source: **BBC**



PHOTO: REDWAN ADIB SUPON

Oedipus gets an oriental makeover

Drishtipat stages "Raja Himadri" at Shilpakala Academy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sanglap Group Theatre arranged the two-day "Jasim Uddin Nasir Smriti Natya Utshab 2013" at National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) that ended yesterday (April 18) through the staging of "Badnaam", an adaptation of a Tagore short story. Mostafa Hira adapted and directed the production. On the opening day (April 17), theatre troupe Drishtipat staged "Raja Himadri".

The organisers also honoured director general of BSA, Liaquat Ali Lucky, on the inaugural day of the festival. Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, AAMS Arefin Siddique, graced the occasion as chief guest, while noted artist Mustafa Monwar and veteran theatre personality Ataur Rahman were present as special guests.

"Oedipus", the overly familiar Greek tragedy by Sophocles, has

seen many stage adaptations in different languages. In Bangladesh, several theatre productions have presented the tragedy and theatre troupe Drishtipat's new production is the latest version of it. The troupe gives the Greek tragedy an oriental touch, as the new production, "Raja Himadri", zooms in on the misfortune of a Himalayan king. Drishtipat premiered the production at Shilpakala Academy on June 15 last year. Khandakar Tazmi Noor - as a guest artiste -- adapted, directed and played the protagonist.

While the oft-read story of "Oedipus" circles around King Oedipus and his wife/mother Jocasta, "Raja Himadri" only focuses on the Himalayan ruler. The plot: King Himadri and his wife Himrani live happily together until a stranger arrives one day and discloses Himadri's dark secret. The secret opens a bleak chapter in the royal couple's lives and finally sepa-

rates them.

The cast included Marjana Barkatun Borsha, Abdul Halim Aziz, Jahangir Kabir Bokul, Mrinmoy Chakraborty, Abul Hossain Ador, Shreya Khandakar and Rafiqul Islam.

The set was specially designed to suit the oriental makeover of the production while Tazmi Noor as Himadri was a bold presence. Tazmi Noor adapted the play from a Bangla translation by Shambhu Mitra. Junayed Usuf designed the set and light, while accomplished Indian musician Durbadal Chattopadhyay composed the music. The background scores demonstrated Chattopadhyay's deep interest in classical music. Amina Rahman was the costume designer who turned out the performers in strange costumes akin to the attire of Himalayan nomads.

"Raja Himadri" is the 21st production by the troupe.



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