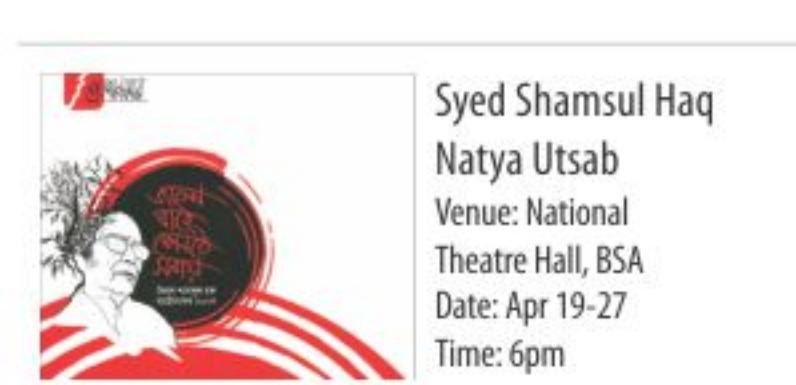


WHAT'S ON



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



Group Art Exhibition
Participants: 80 Novel Artists
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, F-10-41,
DCC North Super Market, 2nd Circle
Gulshan
Date: April 19-May 20
Time: 10am-8pm



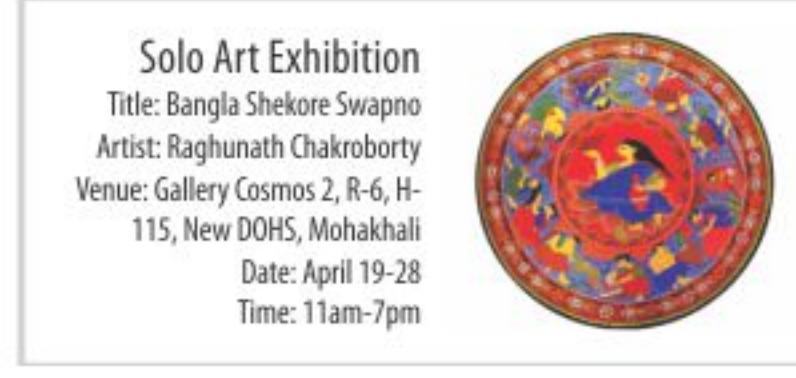
Mask Exhibition
Title: Masks of Bangladesh
Venue: Gallery Jolrong,
Niketon
Date: April 12-25
Time: 10am-8pm



Calligraphy Exhibition
Title: Articulation in
Alphabets
Venue: Dhaka Art Center, H-
60, R-7/A, Dhammendi
Date: April 19-26



Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Rafiq Nabi
Venue: Dhaka Art Center, H-60,
R-7/A, Dhammendi
Date: April 12-30
Time: 3pm-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Bangla Shekore Swarno
Artist: Raghunath Chakraborty
Venue: Gallery Cosmos 2, R-6, H-
115, New DOHS, Mohakhali
Date: April 19-28
Time: 11am-7pm



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

Lubna Marium felicitated

Presentation on "Agency and Art"



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

SAURAV DEY

Shadhma, a centre for promotion of South Asian performing arts, felicitated eminent scholar-researcher and dance exponent Lubna Marium, on her receiving the first Dr. Bhupen Hazarika International Solidarity Award from Asam Sahitya Sabha. At a programme on Saturday evening at Radius Centre in Gulshan, Dhaka, the board of trustees of Shadhma felicitated Marium for her outstanding achievement.

At the event, the citation for the award was read out, followed by presentations on the Asam Sahitya Sabha, Bhupen Hazarika and Lubna Marium's work. A presentation on Shadhma revealed its

multi-dimensional activities in the cultural arena, its diverse projects, future ventures, and contribution to the enrichment of local culture as well as the sub-continental cultural exchange.

In the key presentation, titled "Agency and Art", Lubna Marium discussed the role of art in resolving the conflict between the normative structures of society, and independent human agency. According to Marium, the purpose of art is to inspire a "reflexivity" of consciousness, which helps to break free of the constraints of social structure.

Lubna Marium -- aesthete, scholar, dance pioneer and teacher -- is a noted figure in the contemporary South Asian cultural arena. She has dedicated a lifetime to the promotion of culture, especially dance and other performing arts of the sub-continent. She is the general

secretary and artistic director of Shadhma.

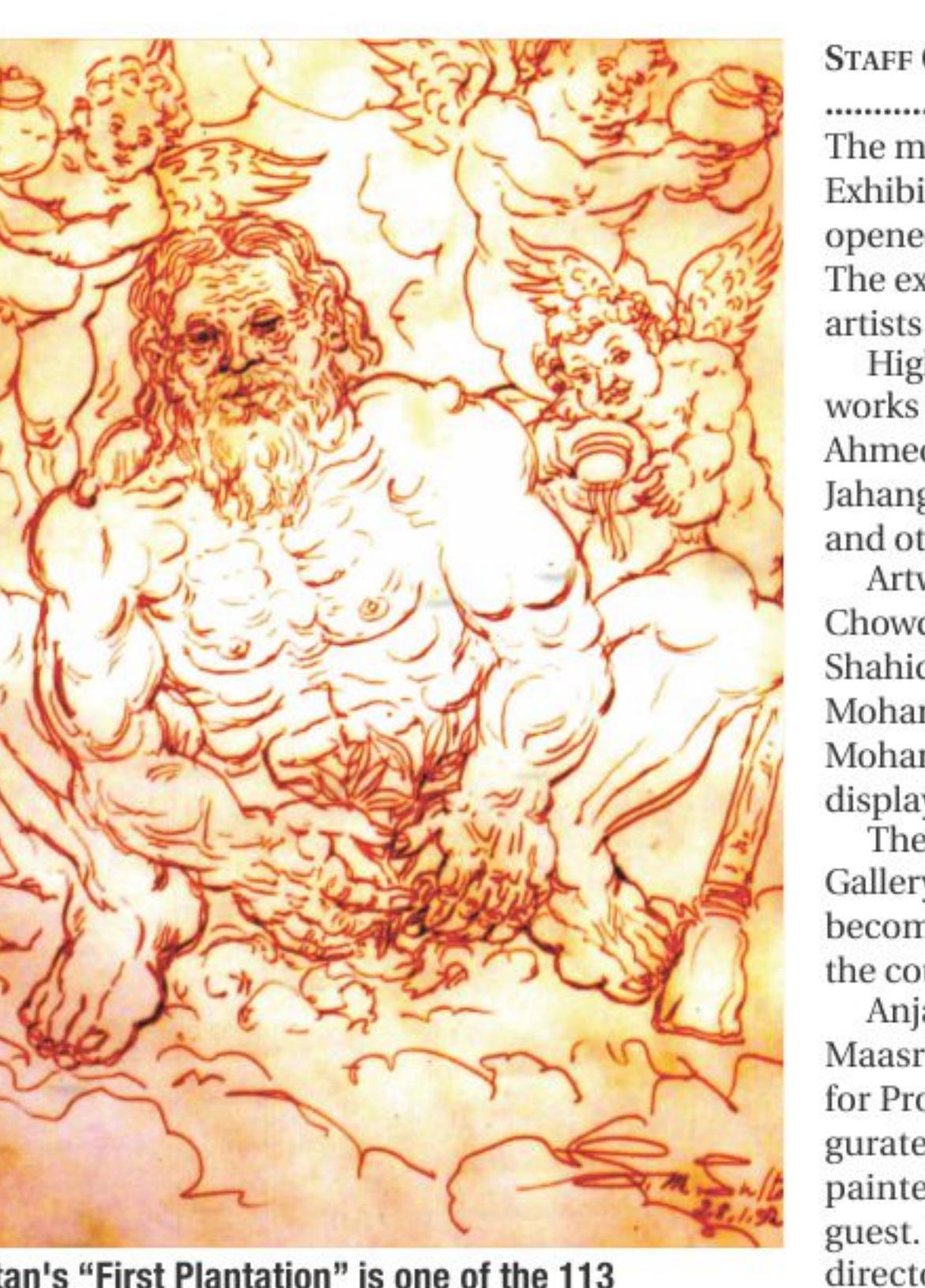
Born in a progressive Bengali family, Marium, in her childhood, developed a passion for dance. Though she at first took up conventional career path and started studying architecture, she could not stay away from dance. She travelled to South India to learn dance, primarily Bharatanatyam. Subsequently she returned to Dhaka. Finding difficulties in taking up dance as a career and limita-

"The purpose of art is to inspire a 'reflexivity' of consciousness, which helps to break free of the constraints of social structure. 'Counter-hegemonic' space of art inspires human agency to embrace pluralistic cultural practices within indigenous performing arts of Bangladesh."

tions of classical dance lessons, she came forward to do something for the young people so that they could have classical dance lessons without having to go abroad. Thus Shadhma was born and since then it has been promoting performance arts.

Marium received the first Biswaratna Bhupen Hazarika International Solidarity Award from the Assam Sahitya Sabha on March 28, 2013 in Guwahati, Assam, from Tarun Gogoi, the Chief Minister of Assam. In her award acceptance speech, Marium said, "the need of the day, therefore, is cultural intervention to bring about a transformation of social consciousness that aims to bring the alienated individual consciousness back to the path of solidarity."

Saju's Grand Group Art Exhibition opens



SM Sultan's "First Plantation" is one of the 113 artworks at the exhibition.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The month-long 39th Grand Group Art Exhibition at Saju Art Gallery (Gulshan-2, Dhaka) opened recently, and will continue till May 20. The exhibition features 113 artworks featuring 80 artists.

Highlights of the exhibit are some avant-garde works by Quamrul Hassan, SM Sultan, Saffiuddin Ahmed, Aminul Islam, Abdur Razzaque, Syed Jahangir, Shamsul Islam Nizami, Monirul Islam and others.

Artworks of Abu Taher, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Abdus Shakoor Shah, Biren Shome, Shahid Kabir, Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ranjit Das, Mohammad Eunus, Kanak Champa Chakma, Mohammad Iqbal and Rafiq Roni are also on display.

The 1st Grand Group Art Exhibition at Saju Art Gallery was held in 1977. Over the years, it has become one of the biggest annual art shows in the country.

Anjan Chowdhury, managing director of Maasranga Television and chairman of Society for Promotion of Bangladesh Art (SPBA), inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest. Noted painter Syed Jahangir was present as special guest. Ramiz Ahmed Chowdhury, managing director of Saju Art Gallery, was also present at the inauguration.



PHOTO COURTESY: BENGAL FOUNDATION

Nishi Nijhum

Nasima Shaheen's latest album launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Accomplished singer and Chhayanaut teacher Nasima Shaheen's latest album of Nazrul Sangeet, "Nishi Nijhum", was launched at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhammendi, in the capital on April 19. The album features 12 songs, including several *kabyageeti*, raga-based melodies and more. Noted Indian musician Durbdal Chattopadhyay has directed the music for the album.

Eminent Nazrul Sangeet artiste Shaheen Samad unveiled the album. Director general of Bengal Foundation, Luva Nahid Chowdhury, welcomed all at the event.

"I have heard Nasima Shaheen's album twice. Her rendition is marked by melody. She has distinctively made the Nazrul Sangeet -- heard many times before -- her own with brilliant vocal embellishment," said Shaheen Samad.

On the occasion, Nasima performed songs from the album. The singer started off the soiree with the title track "Nishi Nijhum". The song, set on Raga Behag, contains a melancholic nuance experienced and expressed by a lover yearning for her beloved who is far away.

The artiste's offering of the songs "Sakhi Aar Abhiman Janabo Na" and "Prothom Prodip Jalo", based on Raga Patdwip, was evocative too. Her repertoire also included "Bhul-e Jeo Bhul-e Jeo", "Or Nishith Samadhi", "Ghumayechhey Phul Poth-er Dhulay", "Ami Chirotoye Dure Choley Jabo" and more.

Almas Ali on violin, Daulatul Rahman on keyboard, Nazmul Alam on percussion and Iftekhar Prodhan on tabla accompanied the artiste.

Nasima Shaheen took lessons on Nazrul Sangeet from renowned gurus including Shaheen Samad and Kairul Anam Shakil of Chhayanaut.



A stellar actor
Pran to receive
Dada Saheb Phalke Award

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Veteran Bollywood actor Pran, who played villain and character roles with equal ease, has been selected for India's highest cinematic honour -- the Dada Saheb Phalke Award.

The 93-year-old actor, who was in hospital recently due to ill health, retired from acting in 1998 after a illustrious six-decade career that saw him performing in over 400 films.

The award, named after the father of Indian cinema, Dada Saheb Phalke, will be conferred on Pran on May 3. incidentally, this year also marks 100 years of Indian cinema.

It is a pity that a talented actor like Pran had to be categorised as a character-actor or a villain when he was extremely versatile.

Welcoming the announcement, his son Sunil Sikand told PTI that the family was happy that Pran was recognised for his contribution to Indian cinema.

The Hindi film industry, however, feels that the honour came too late for Pran.

Pran has rendered performances in many films along with Dilip Kumar, Dev Anand and Raj Kapoor in the 1950s and '60s. His performances have received critical acclaim in films like "Azaad", "Madhumati", "Devdas", "Dil Diya Dard Liya", "Ram Aur Shyam" and "Admi".

Pran initially wanted to become a photographer but destiny had different plans for him. A chance meeting with a film producer got him his first break in a Punjabi film, "Yamla Jat", in 1940. There was no looking back for the actor after that.

Pran's film career suffered a brief pause due to the Partition and after that he moved to Mumbai with his wife Shukla and sons Arvind and Sunil but found it difficult to get work as an actor in the city of dreams. He had almost given up when writer Saadat Hasan Manto helped him get a role in the Dev Anand-starrer, "Ziddi", produced by Bombay Talkies in 1948, which revived his career.

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The recipient of a number of honours, including the Filmfare Award, Pran was also felicitated with the Indian government's prestigious title Padma Bhushan.

Almas Ali on violin, Daulatul Rahman on keyboard, Nazmul Alam on percussion and Iftekhar Prodhan on tabla accompanied the artiste.

Nasima Shaheen took lessons on Nazrul Sangeet from renowned gurus including Shaheen Samad and Kairul Anam Shakil of Chhayanaut.

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