









Solo Drawing Exhibition Artist: Mainuddin Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, R-7/A, Dhanmondi Date: May 31-June 12 Time: 3pm-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition Title: Fata Morgana Artist: Rokya Sultana Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, Gulshan-1 Date: May 17-June 11 Time: 5pm-8pm



Children's painting festival in Tangail

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

A painting festival among children was held in Tangail town yesterdayin a festive atmosphere.

Shishuder Jonno Foundation, a local children's organisation, arranged the event at Bindubasini Government Boys High School in association with Tangail Municipality and Martyred Freedom Fighters Museum in Tangail.

Around 350 students of different schools in the town - from class 3 to 10 -- took part in the festival in three categories.

Prominent Artist Sheikh Afzal, associate professor of fine arts department of Dhaka University; former Bangladeshi Ambassador in Spain Anwarul Alam Shahid; Headmaster of Bindubasini Boys High School Abdul Karim, artist and child littérateur Syed Iqbal and director of Anandapath and Sonartory Cultural Schools in Tangail, Aminul Haque Khan Kaiser attended and spoke at the festival.

Later, the guests distributed certificates among the participants.

The festival was organised to increase creativity among the children, told Muyid Hasan Torit, coordinator of the festival committee.

Aditi Mohsin's musical soiree at IGCC

Renowned Rabindra Sangeet singer Aditi Mohsin will be the featured artiste of a musical evening to be arranged by Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) at its Gulshan Auditorium on June 1, says a press release.

Since its inception in 2010, IGCC -- under the High Commission of India in Dhaka -- has strived to promote a platform for Bangla music of different genres.

Aditi Mohsin -- through her unique style of singing -- has become a popular Rabindra Sangeet singer at home and abroad. The singer, who took her music lessons at the prestigious Visva-Bharati University in Kolkata, has eight audio

albums to her credit. Aditi has travelled widely to perform in countries like the USA, UK, Canada, UAE, China, Indonesia and India. She has been a senior teacher at

Chhayanaut since 2000.





Switzerland in 1971, where someone lit a flare gun and supposedly "burned the place to the ground". Deep Purple had set up a camp adjacent to the place to record an album, with a mobile recording studio rented from The Rolling Stones (referred to in the song as "Rolling truck Stones thing").

COLLECTIONS

"Collecting musical instruments is my passion" ...Kumar Bishwajit





SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Kumar Bishwajit's sonorous voice and catchy melodies have earned him in a place in the hearts of every music-loving Bangladeshi. The man behind numerous hits is also an avid instrumentitian, and has a knack for new musical sounds. The ever-smiling Bishwajit recently spoke to The Daily Star about something very close to his heart. Excerpts from the conversa-

Among my many hobbies, collecting musical instruments tops the list. I'm an aficionado of musical tools and try to collect any unique example wherever I find it. I recently went to Japan, but unfortunately couldn't collect any new instrument due to time constraints. Other than this, I've never failed to collect musical instrumentss whenever I traveled abroad.

In my collection, I have different types of cowbells, African instruments, two kinds of shakers, wood sticks etc. When my traveling companions are busy with their shopping, I spend my time searching for instruments.

One amusing experience that comes to mind regarding by hobby, was while I was buying an instrument from a roadside fair in Canada. I wanted to buy a wooden instrument, which had another object attached to it. But the seller kept on insisting that I should pay extra for that wooden object. We started arguing; but someone else came and assured the seller that the object was part of the instrument. The seller apologised and offered me a treat. I had a good laugh over the incident.

Many people may not know this, but for every song I record, I play my own instrumental parts. Songs like "Choturdola", "Ekhon Onek Raat", Pagol Bolo", "Tore Putuler Moto Kore Shajiye", "Jekhane Shimanto Tomar", " Ekdin Bangali Chhilam Re" -- all these songs feature my own touches with the instrument. Collecting musical instruments is not only my hobby, it's my passion.

Joler Dhara's group show at Dhaka Art Centre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Joler Dhara, an artists' organisation, recently put together a three-day group art exhibition, featuring the works of promising artists of several art institutions of our country. The exhibition was held at Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi. Accomplished artists Hamiduzzaman Khan, Biren Shome and Kanak Chanpa Chakma jointly inaugurated the exhibition.

About 102 artworks of 52 artists were on display at the exhibition. The artists' focused on nature's splendor and serenity, riverine life, cloudy skies, hilly areas, ponds, lakes, sailing boats, ships, mustard and green paddy fields in autumn, rainy days, blue skies and more.

The exhibition was the outcome of a

one-month watercolour workshop organised a few weeks ago by Joler Dhara. The participating organisations were Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka; University of Development Alternative (UODA); Shanto-Marium University of Creative Technology; Narayanganj Art College; Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA); Department of Fine Arts, Rajshahi University; Rajshahi Art College and Jatiya Kobi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (Trishal). About 85 artists took part in the workshop. The workshop's main aim was to popularise the watercolour medium among promising painters of the country.

Noted water colourist Shohag Parvez the coordinator of the workshop taught water colour techniques, process and style of application.

The exhibition ended on May 29.



Sohag Parvez (sitting, C) conducts the workshop.

Has Indian Cinema missed its mark at Cannes?

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Debutante Indian director Ritesh Batra's film "The Lunchbox", depicting a gentle romance between a neglected young housewife and a middle-aged widower, has won the Viewers' Choice award on the sidelines of the 66th Cannes Film Festival.

Starring Irrfan Khan, Nawazuddin Siddique and Nimrat Kaur, the film portrays the story of romance between a widowed Catholic accountant (played by Irrfan) and a housewife, when the lunch she sends to her husband is mistakenly delivered by Mumbai's famous "Dabbawala" -- people who ferry lunch boxes from home to offices with unfailing regularity and immaculate timing, day in day out.

The film is an international collaboration between Germany, France and India and not in the usual song-and-dance Bollywood format.

Meanwhile, a debate is raging in Indian film circles whether the Indian presence in Cannes festival has in any way helped in raising the profile of present-day Indian cin-

ema in its centenary year. There is general agreement that India, for all its rich and diverse film industry, was represented in Cannes this year by just four films



Irrfan Khan in a scene from "The Lunchbox".

that saw only one individual —Anurag Kashyap — hogging the limelight. The films were "Monsoon Shootout", "The Lunchbox", "Bombay Producer" and "Ugly" -which had Kashyap either as director, producer or co-producer. However, not a single film has set Cannes abuzz in a manner that would make the modern Indian

cinema count internationally. The question that is being asked is whether this kind of representation in Cannes will help truly independent filmmaking in India? True, Bollywood too has a clutch of young filmmakers who are combing the mainstream commercial cinema's language and bits and

pieces of art house elements, though the result is often a hotchpotch. There are better such films being made in other languages of India, particularly in Bengali -which were not to be seen in Cannes.

That being so, the focus -- particularly of Indian media -- was more on individuals -Amitabh Bachchan appearing in a blink-andmiss role in Baz Luhrmann-directed "The Great Gasby", Aishwarya Rai, Vidya Balan, Sonam Kapur, Freida Pinto, Mallika Sherawat and Priyanka Chopra walking the red carpet and a critical appraisal of the outfits they were wearing on the occasion.

Jiboner Gaan in Arlington

A CORRESPONDENT

Washington-based Bangladeshi organization, Prio Bangla is hosting a cultural programme titled "Chaturango" in Arlington, Virginia, USA today. The highlight of the event will be musical drama "Jiboner Gaan" -- based on songs of Rabindranath, Nazrul, DL Roy, SD Burman, and mystic bards Lalon Shah, Hason Raja, Radharaman and Shah Abdul

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The play is composed by Sudip Chakroborthy from Bangladesh and directed by Priolal Karmakar from USA. Some 60 young expatriate Bangladeshis will perform the play, at the Thomas Jefferson Middle School theatre.

This year's "Chaturango" -- organised in assistance with the Arlington County government - is dedicated to the memory of the victims of the tragic Savar Rana Plaza collapse.



Brand ambassador of Lux, Mehzabien **Chowdhury hands** over a diamond locket to a winner of "Buy Lux and Win a Diamond Locket" campaign, at the capital's Emanualle's restaurant. The first phase of the handover saw 150 winners of Dhaka receiving diamond lockets yesterday.

RIDWAN ADID RUPON

ROCK TALK

The Circus is in town

TOWHIDUL ISLAM KHAN

If the underground music scene in Dhaka was missing some excitement, the stage performance of Circus Police has surely filled that void. The young band - which consists of Zaki Adnan, Zulyad Islam Quazi, Tanjib Chowdhury and Efaz R Khan (Dhrubo) - knows how to get the crowd on their feet and groove to their music.

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The Daily Star caught up with the band, where the members shared their experiences and insights into the music scene.

When or how did you guys first click as a band. How did Circus Police come about?

Zaki: When Circus Police was formed, it was Anik Bhai, Zaved Bhai, Khaled Bhai, Zulyad and I! We had a fantastic time together and played a lot of shows together, but it always felt like something was a little out of place. We restarted when Tanjib and Azfar joined the band. Zulyad, Tanjib and I got closer as days went by, and the chemistry we

share reached its optimum when Saadi joined us. The four of us really bonded over time, and it deepened our passion and drive for Circus Police! We feel we've matured a fair bit by now, and the band has been further solidified by Dhrubo bhai.

Tanjib: I think the passion started with our first song that we all composed together, "Porjobekkhok". I think the fact that we've made something that was completely us, made us click together properly.

How important is a crowd at your concerts?

Zaki: A crowd is an essential element for any concert. They can make or break a gig! While we're up on the stage enjoying ourselves, we like to make sure the crowd is enjoying themselves too.

Zulyad: I think the crowd has a major impact on our energy levels when we are on stage.

Are you satisfied with the acoustics of our concert venues? And do you think there are properly trained live sound engineers in Dhaka?

Zulyad: Sound-wise we were always a little unlucky I think. But that's because sound engineers necessarily have to be acquainted with the band and their sound. So even if an engineer is trained, it doesn't make it any easier since he isn't acquainted with our sound.

Tanjib: Also, most of the indoor gigs had acoustic problems. What has been the best on-stage experience for you guys, so far?

Tanjib: There was a show at East West University, where we were performing "Another brick in the wall", and this guy in the crowd threw us his Pink Floyd T- shirt on stage. It was an incredible feeling.

Future album plans?

Zaki: We're currently half-way through our "songstruction" phase. So far, we've recorded "Thank You for Not Smoking", "The Unholy Tales of Adam & Lilith" and "Mohini Romoni", and are working on our next piece "Bharshammo". We hope to bring a real circus to the town with our first album!

Tanjib: We hope to at least finish recording by this year.



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