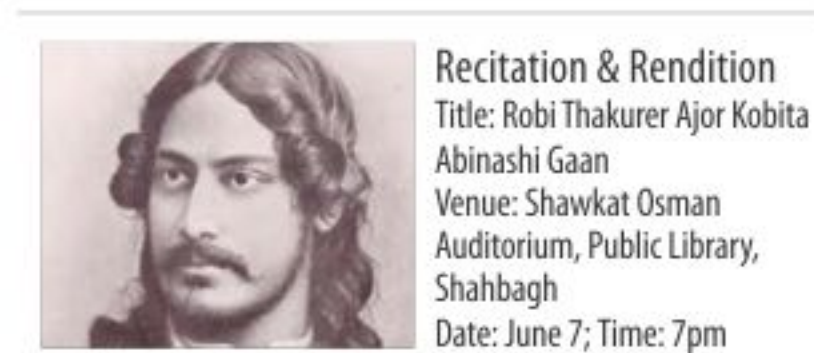


WHAT'S ON



Recitation & Rendition
Title: Robi Thakur Apor Kobita
Artist: Abinash Gaan
Venue: Shawkat Osman
Auditorium, Public Library,
Shahbagh
Date: June 7, Time: 7pm



Album Launch
Album: Benka (Nazim Sangeet)
Artist: Khairul Anam Shakil
Venue: Bengal Shikarpur, H-42,
Rd-16 (New), Dharmad
Date: June 7, Time: 7pm



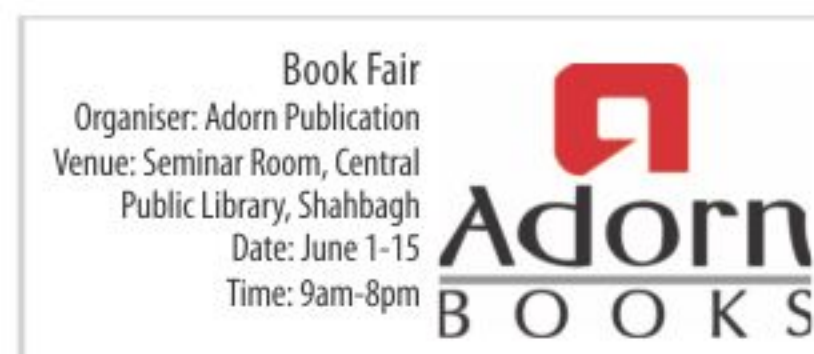
Duet Musical Soiree
Artists: Salma Akbar & Sajed Akbar
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural
Centre, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1
Date: June 7, Time: 6:30pm



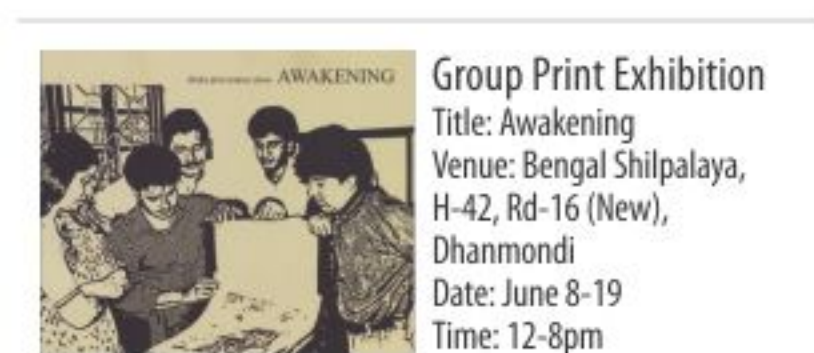
Solo Drawing Exhibition
Artist: Mainuddin
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre,
H-60, Rd-7/A, Dharmad
Date: May 31-June 12
Time: 3pm-8pm



An Evening of Rock Music
Band: Miles led by Shafin Ahmed
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural
Centre, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1
Date: June 8, Time: 6:30pm



Book Fair
Organiser: Adorn Publication
Venue: Seminar Room, Central
Public Library, Shahbagh
Date: June 1-15
Time: 9am-8pm



Group Print Exhibition
Title: Awakening
Venue: Bengal Shikarpur,
H-42, Rd-16 (New),
Dharmad
Date: June 8-19
Time: 12-5pm

AMITY OF SIX

Group exposition at Gallery Cosmos-2



A painting by Mohammad Iqbal.

TAKIR HOSSAIN

A group exhibition creates a platform that encourages the exchange of perspectives between participating painters. Often these exhibitions feature artists who share a common background, whether as seniors/juniors or members of a certain group. The works may be at variance, based on themes, techniques and personal experiences but personal interaction plays a vital role. One such group exposition titled "Peace" is on at Gallery Cosmos-2, New DOHS, Mohakhali.

The ongoing exhibition is praiseworthy for its selection of works. The participating artists are Afrozaa Jamil Konka, Mohammad Iqbal, Maksuda Iqbal Nipa, Bipasha Hayat, Pijush Kanti and Rebeka Sultana. Through the exhibits of a number of earnest contemporary painters, one can easily comprehend current trends in

Bangladeshi art. The painters have used varied styles and approaches, though they seem to have a great fascination for realism, pure-realism, symbolism, abstraction and abstract-expressionism.

Mohammad Iqbal is one of the significant participants of the show. In the mid 90s, the painter appeared on the art scene with his strong philosophical themes and experimental works. His protagonists on canvas were usually downtrodden people, and spirituality also came into focus. The vast differences in the economic structures of different communities propels him into demonstrating their lifestyles. The painter's current preferred theme is children, whom he considers ignored and mistreated. The painter said, "Over the last few years, I have been thinking about civilisation and the destruction of the planet. The thought process is apparent on my canvas. Throughout the

course of civilisation, major acts of violence and cruelty have taken place in different parts of the world."

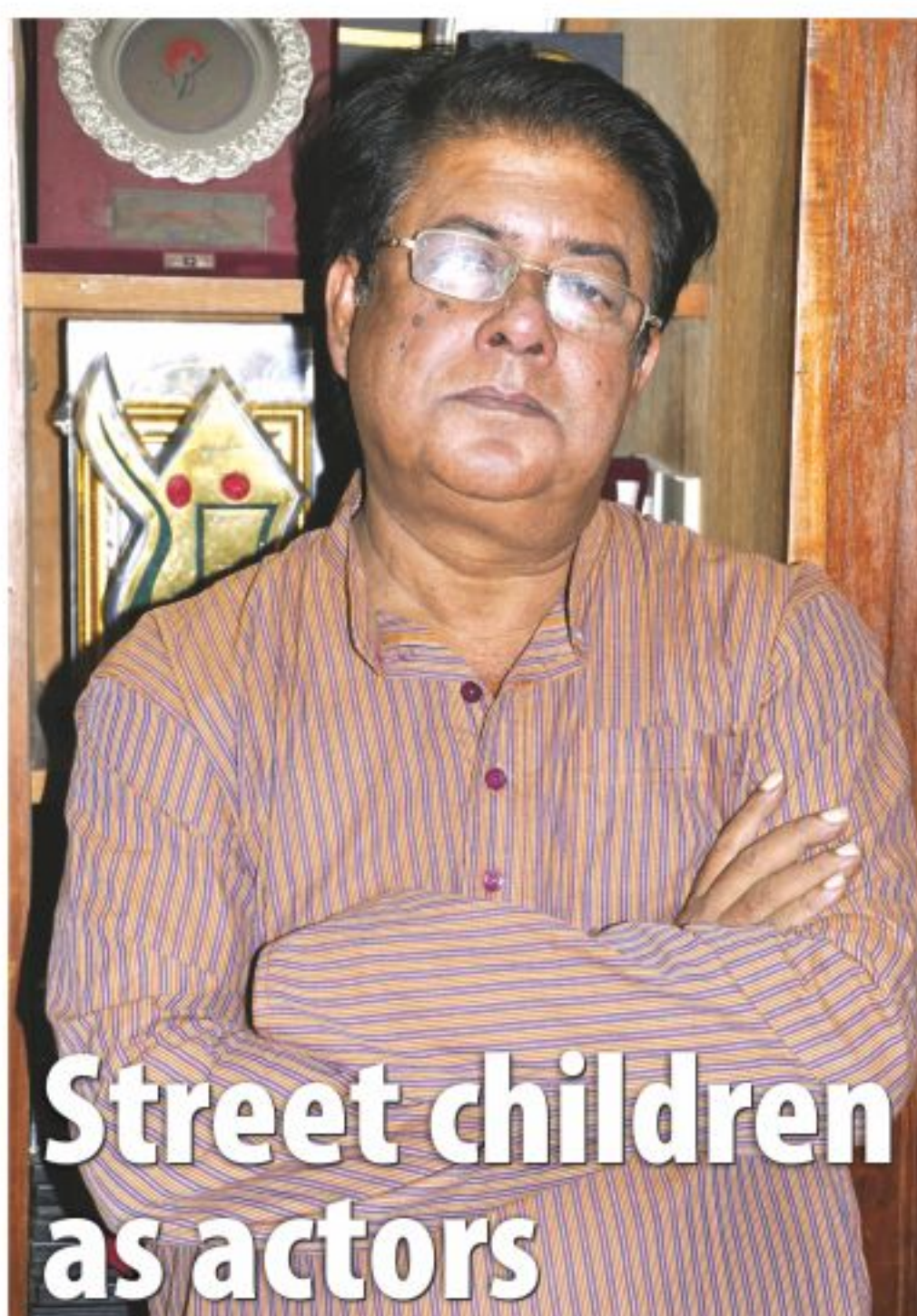
Maksuda Iqbal Nipa's main goal is to capture the beauty of nature with the approach of symbolism. Her quest for nature's splendour and contemplation on nature has influenced her to mirror a lively picture of nature in her paintings. She says, "Art seems to me to be above all a state of soul. All my work carries spiritual symbolism in the use of my colours, tones and textures." At the exhibition, her canvases are profuse in abstract images of colour and tiny scribble lines. Her images flourish in her use of deep droplets and various sprinkled forms.

At the exhibition, Rebeka Sultana Moly presents like the young women in printed attire. She is a figurative painter and her canvas is full of doodles and forms. In her work, flora and foliage are noticeable objects. She is inclined to use crimson, green and black in her works.

Bipasha Hayat is now quite active on Dhaka art scene. She has recently participated in a number of group exhibitions and art camps. At the exhibition, as a non-figurative painter, her works are considered to be pure abstract-expressionism. She seems aware of space and forms, and has used geometric and amorphous shapes, rectangular, vertical, half-curved and full curved forms. The painter leads the viewers to a world of sublime beauty. Her paintings could be regarded as a combination of simple examples of romanticism and existences.

Afrozaa Jamil Konka made a shift from Oriental to Realistic art in her early days. Though she changed her field of study, she tries to maintain a correlation between her present working style and Oriental art. Recently, the painter's themes mirror various social, political and environmental issues. Beside the issues, birds, flora and fauna have been placed in the limelight by the artist in a number of her recent exhibitions.

The exhibition ends on June 10.



Street children as actors

Mamunur Rashid directs two new plays

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although he has years of experience behind him, media personality Mamunur Rashid has recently taken on a fresh challenge -- directing two TV plays featuring street children. The TV productions come a month after he directed two stage plays with street children -- "Akash Kushum" and "Hiramon". The stories were adapted for stage from Rabindranath Tagore's "Dakghar" and "Tota Kahini" respectively.

The 40 street children, who worked in the stage production of the play, also acted for the TV versions. The shooting of the plays was held over several days at Rose Garden in Old Dhaka, and the Bhawal Gor in Gazipur.

Rashid said, "The lot is very talented. Some of them are painters, some sing, some are great actors. They did a wonderful job both on the stage and for television." In response to another question, the veteran actor informed, "I was simply amazed when I watched the children perform on stage. After that I took the initiative to make the TV plays. The TV programme will soon be shown at a press show."

The lead roles in "Akash Kushum" are played by Shapla, Jhumka, Shawkat, Amena, and Munna, with Shapla playing the role of Kushum. Meanwhile, the cast of "Hiramon" includes Shahida, Taslima, Tania, Sumon, and Shahida, with Shahida playing the titular role.

Feroza Begum recuperating after heart surgery

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Legendary singer Feroza Begum is safely home at her Indira road apartment, recuperating from an open heart surgery. She was rushed to emergency at Apollo Hospital in the city at midnight on May 13, after suffering from acute chest pain. On May 15, she underwent an open heart surgery carried out by reputed surgeon Dr. Madhava Naik Janardhan.

According to family sources, the news was kept under the wraps till she had regained consciousness to avoid her fans from milling around.

"She is resting at home and is trying to gradually resume walking and other everyday physical activities, as advised by doctors," said her son Shafin Ahmed, lead singer of popular band Miles. "Ma was very agitated when she was brought to the cabin -- days after operation. What was interesting was that while we were attending to her, someone switched on the TV and incidentally, a show on my father Kamal Das Gupta was being telecast on DD Bangla. We watched in amazement as Ma slowly got up from her bed and sat on a chair to eagerly watch the entire programme, forgetting her discomforts. The other day, a programme on her was telecast on Ekushey TV, which she viewed with equal enthusiasm," added Ahmed.

"We call on her well-wishers to pray for her swift recovery," Shafin Ahmed said.



PHOTO: ATL AKASH

Musical soiree at IGCC today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted artiste duo Salma Akbar and Sajed Akbar will perform Tagore songs at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Gulshan at 6:30 pm today.

Their repertoire will include songs from Puja, Prem and Prokitti along with numbers on request. The couple will set off the soiree with a duet song "Ki Gabo Ami Ki Shonabo". They also hope to render other duets, including "Ami Tomar Shongey Be(n)dhechhi Amar Pran", "Sedin Dujoney" and "Gahono Kushum Kunja Majhey", a song from "Bhanusinger Padabali".

Salma Akbar's repertoire will include "Jagotey Anandajogge", Aaji Pronomi Tomarey" and more while Sajed Akbar will render "Promodey Dhalia Dinu Mon", "Dip Nibey Gechey Momo" etc. Born in Barisal, Salma Akbar



Sajed and Salma Akbar.

studied at Chayyanaout and received her initial training in classical music from Ustad Narayan Chandra Basak and

Ustad Azad Rahman. She also received training in Rabindra Sangeet under legends such as late Karim Sharafi, Sanjida

Khatun, Sadi Mohammad, Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya in Bangladesh and under Kanika Bandopadhyay, Nilima Sen, Sanghamitra Gupta in India.

Sajed Akbar was born in Chittagong to renowned politician and Freedom Fighter parents, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury and Gholam Akbar Chowdhury.

Inspired by his parents, the artiste received initial training in Indian classical music from Ustad Fazul Hoque in 1969. Subsequently, he trained in Tagore songs under Atikul Islam at Bulbul Lalitkala Academy, Abdul Ahaad, Kalim Sharafi, Ajit Roy and Sadi Mohammad. He was thereafter appointed as a trainer of Rabindra Sangeet at the Bulbul Lalitkala Academy.

The event will be held in association with the State Bank of India in Bangladesh and Channel i as media partner.

DO'S AND DON'TS

Shakila Zafar Melodious elegance

AFSANA TAZREEN

Remember the elegant lady who dazzles audiences with her melodious voice, her easy going charm and her ravishing smile? We speak, of course, of Shakila Zafar, one of the leading exponents of contemporary music in the country. She set out on her journey in 1979, after winning a classical music competition by Bangladesh Betar. Since then, there was no looking back. During a one-on-one with The Daily Star, Shakila gave a peek into how she has been wooing her audience for three decades.

How important is a singer's appearance in a performance?

Shakila: You cannot solely ride on your looks and push aside your voice as secondary. Voice training and practice is crucial for a vocalist; the voice must supersede the appearance. After all, a singer's voice is his or her most prized possession.

One are considered one of the most glamorous singers since the 1980s. How does one create such an image?

Shakila: It's not one particular element I can single out. It's the right combination of several elements, including one's looks, attitude and personality. Personally, I'm very conscious about my looks; I strive for perfection during my public appearances. I enjoy receiving compliments as they bring me a sense of warmth and happiness, and help me float breezily through the day.

What's your advice for our readers on the fashion and beauty front?

Shakila: Clothes, accessories, hairdos, makeover should all be in harmony and should match the environment you are in. I love experimenting with my hairstyles, clothes, and accessories! Health must be given the top priority. I do not take my health for granted and take a regime of a good diet, exercise, posture and hygiene very seriously. I take long walks and frequent the gym. I believe every woman should be conscious of her health, irrespective of industry. That being said, in the end what matters the most is how much you can deliver. If you can ace your performance, you will inadvertently radiate self-confidence.

What do you think are the fashion sacrileges frequently committed by women?

Shakila: Wearing bright-coloured eye makeup in broad daylight is a strict "no-no". Also, chipped off nail polish and cracked fingernails in women during parties really bothers me, especially while they are draped in expensive attire!



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADDI RUPON

Impress Your PARTNER

There is no looking back for the couples anymore on the third episode of Pond's Age Miracle My Second Honeymoon, with the program being raised to an entirely new level. On tonight's episode of the show, couples are going to practice and perfect their craft with which to impress their partners.

The couples will perform their chosen talents to prove their love and impress their beloved in front of the judges, other contestants and of course their significant other. As a poet once romantically proclaimed "I have combed the world to find 108 blue-lotuses..." it was the participants' time to pick the blue-lotus!

This episode is going to feature the first five of ten couples who are competing not only to win at this show but to win their partner's heart. Among the judges this week will be famous singer Partha Barua, popular anchor Sharmin Lucky,

artist Kanak Chanpa Chakma and actress Deepa Khandakar. The couples' performances are going to ensure an entertainment-packed episode.

It speaks a lot about love when one sees down-to-earth, everyday people so effortlessly perform all in a bid to win the hearts of their loved ones. It is quite heartening to see how far outside their comfort zone the couples are willing to go to impress their partner. Viewers of this week's episode will see the lengths and possibilities they have if they want to make their beloved feel special.

Among the outstanding performances to watch out of this weekend are Shubhra's moving acting, romantic songs performed by Rajeev, Subah and Shaikat, Shovan's heartfelt dancing, delicious cooking of Osman and Sushmita, Israt's painting and earnest and sincere love letters read out by MS Kabir and Monowara.

Find out tonight at 9.45pm on Desh TV

My 2nd Honeymoon

Come fall in love again

How will the participants impress their life partners?

Watch the lovely couples perform heartwarming acts to sway their loved ones.

To watch this romantic episode, keep your eyes on Desh TV tonight at 9:45 pm
Catch the repeat telecast tomorrow at 12:15 pm

TV Partner
desh.tv

JUST FOR LAUGHS

APURBA

Once when I was in Singapore to shoot for a TV play at a park, some Chinese people gathered around us. After a while they started shouting, "Shahrukh Khan! Shahrukh Khan!". At first, I thought that the Bollywood star was really shooting nearby; but later understood that they mistook me for Shahrukh Khan. The whole experience made me laugh.

IT'S TRUE!

After studying 36 self-portraits of the great Dutch painter and etcher Rembrandt, two students of the Harvard Medical School published a paper in 2004 suggesting that the painter's eyes failed to align correctly, and he consequently suffered from stereo blindness. This disability could have helped him to flatten images he saw, and then put it onto the two-dimensional canvas. One of the students theorised that this was an advantage for the painter.



Jack White 'saves' legendary music venue

A legendary music hall in Detroit, USA is to be named after Jack White -- after the musician "saved" it from auction.

The White Stripes star anonymously paid the \$142,000 tax bill for the Masonic Temple -- is the largest building of its kind in the world -- where the likes of Jimi Hendrix, The Who and the Rolling Stones have performed.

He intervened days before the 14-storey venue was to be put up for sale.

"Jack's donation could not have come at a better time," Roger Sobran told the Detroit Free Press. "We are eternally grateful to him for it."

The building, which is on America's National Register of Historic Places, has more than 1,000 rooms and a theatre that has hosted top performers for decades.



Jack white (left) paid off the taxes for the iconic venue, saving it from being sold off.

Temple as a young boy when his mother worked as an usher at one of its theatres. The Detroit native has since performed at the venue on several occasions.



anonymous donor on Tuesday by Sobran, who applauded his "magnanimous generosity and unflinching loyalty to this historic building and his Detroit roots."

As a sign of appreciation, the Masonic Temple Association said it would give the temple's 1,586-seat Cathedral Theatre a new name - The Jack White Theatre. Source: BBC