

WHAT'S ON

20th National Art Exhibition
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 22-July 12
Time: 11am-8pm



Domestic Film Festival
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Segunbagicha
Date: July 3-10
Time: 5pm



Painting Exhibition
Title: Passion for Blue
Artist: Gopal Chandra Saha
Venue: Institute of Asian Creatives, Gulshan-2
Date: July 5-15
Time: 12pm-8pm



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Whistle
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-7, R-13, Dhanmondi
Date: July 5-14
Time: 12pm-8pm



Celebrating 100 years of National Museum
Venue: Main Auditorium, N. Museum
Date: August 6-8
Time: 4pm



NEWS bytes

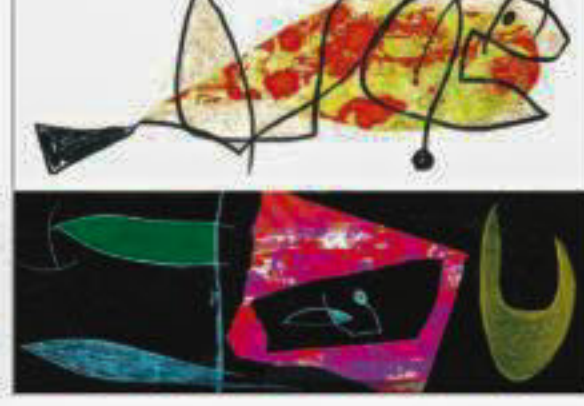
Clooney, Bullock to open Venice film festival

Sci-fi film "Gravity", starring George Clooney and Sandra Bullock, is to open the Venice Film Festival in August. The 3D movie, directed by Mexican filmmaker Alfonso Cuarón, sees the pair as astronauts on an ill-fated mission. The gala on the Venice Lido runs until from 28 August to 7 September.

"Last Tango in Paris" director Bernardo Bertolucci - whose debut film, "The Grim Reaper", showed at the festival in 1962 - will lead the jury for this year's Golden Lion for best film. The rest of the festival line-up is yet to be announced, but films being tipped to be screened include "Under the Skin", starring Scarlett Johansson as an alien and "Twelve Years a Slave", the latest film from British director Steve McQueen starring Brad Pitt, and Chiwetel Ejiofor.

Source: BBC

It's True!



Spanish painter Joan Miró created over 250 illustrated books, known as "Livres d'Artiste." One such work was published in 1974, at the urging of the widow of the surrealist French poet Robert Desnos - who was a close friend of Miro. The two had planned in 1925 to collaborate for a Livre d'Artiste, but Desnos was imprisoned in Auschwitz, and died in 1945. Nearly three decades later, Miro set out to illustrate the poet's manuscript. The result, titled "Les pénalités de l'enfer ou les nouvelles Hébrides" (*The Penalties of Hell or The New Hebrides*), was a set of 25 lithographs; five in black, and the others in colors.

The essence of Oriental Art
Gopal Chandra Saha's solo exhibition at Institute of Asian Creatives

TAKIR HOSSAIN

The main intention of practicing oriental art is to divulge the splendid and affluent traditional art of Asia to save and nurture the continuity of our own art trend. Following the objective and principle of Bengal school, which initiated in opposition to western academic realism, the students of Oriental Art department of Government Art Institute, (currently known as Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka) have been practicing this genre of art since mid fifties of the last century.

Gopal Chandra Saha is one of the promising disciples of this genre of art. He demonstrates his impulsive talent in oriental expressions, with minute details. The artist usually portrays women in natural settings. He also focuses on the female visage and various aspects of nature in symbolic manner. His faces symbolise dreams, beliefs and desires. Warm colours, technical detail and mellow textural intensity are common traits of his works.

Several of Saha's works denote serenity and crystal blue has been focused. It seems that the shade is the symbol of quietness and has a heavenly touch. His watercolours have a sense of sophistication and tranquility about them. The works are elegant with striking female figures and varied symbolic representation. Over the years, sitting women, contemplative and romantic belle as



A watercolour by Gopal Chandra Saha.

well as historical personalities have been recurring themes in his works. Female forms take centre stage against kaleidoscopic backgrounds -- often drawing one's attention from the centre of the work. Most of his works have

a touch of cubism, and he prefers to go into details and his lines are provocative. Saha's works attempt a difficult compromise between the lyrical abstraction and the pictorial articulation where line and

colour are vital ingredients. His works assume a somber look, with blue predominating. For him, blue has the simple but symbolic role of bringing out a serene and quiet quality. His images employ varied shapes like geometric patterns and forms of synthetic cubism.

It has also been observed that Saha's has a great fascination towards pure abstraction (in several of his works) where forms and compositions have been highlighted. He constructs an image and then he deconstructs it, only to recreate it. Well-drawn figures, forms and meticulously created compositions make several of his images memorable. His images also keenly capture fragmented visions inspired by fragmented narrative structure. At his ongoing exhibition, his works also highlight a combination of contemporary geometric shapes and kaleidoscope forms. The artist has used figures and motifs derived from his whimsical visions.

Gopal Chandra Saha's solo art exhibition is now on at Institute of Asian Creatives (IAC) in Gulshan-2. Former president and Jatiya Party Chairman Hussain Muhammad Ershad inaugurated the exhibition on July 5. Faruk Hassan, managing director of Giant Group was present as special guest. Azeem Shah, general manager of The Westin Hotel and Ishrat Akhond, gallery curator and trustee of IAC were also present at the inauguration.

The exhibition will continue till July 19.

CD of Jibondhuli songs set for release

A first for Tanvir Mokammel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As a build-up to director Tanvir Mokammel's latest feature film "Jibondhuli" after the Eid festival, the CD of the songs of the film will be released on July 7 evening at the Bangladesh Film Institute auditorium at Lake Circus, Kalabagan.

The special feature of the launch of the CD cover is that it will be released by Rajkumari Dasi Sundori, a child in 1971 and a housewife now, whose parents were killed in the infamous Chuknagar genocide by the Pakistani army in Khulna.

Ershad Ali, a local farmer, rescued Rajkumari when she was sucking breast milk from her dead mother, Mokammel told The Daily Star.

The CD will have six songs. The lyrics of four songs have been written by Tanvir Mokammel and Syed Shabbab Ali Arzoo, the music director of the film, has set music to the songs. The other two songs have been collected from folk sources.

Folk-singer Abu Bakr Siddik, actress Chittralekha Guha, who also acts in "Jibondhuli", and Mrinal Dutta have lent their voices to the songs.

From July 7, all the six songs of "Jibondhuli" will be available online.

This is the first time the songs of a Mokammel film will be formally launched in a CD ahead of its hitting the screen.



Traditional bull-fight in Narail



PONUUEL S BOSE, Narail

A traditional bull-fight was held at Ujirpur village under Narail municipality of the district on Tuesday.

Thousands of excited people from all over the district viewed the event. Organised by Ujirpur villagers, around 50 bulls were brought for the fight from Narail and neighbouring districts.

Tipu Sultan of Kodomtola village of Kalia upazila in Narail, who won the first prize, said "Once village fairs were inconceivable without bull-fights but now the scenario has changed totally. We want to preserve this tradition for the next generation."

The area wore a festive look and a fair as also held during the event.



Abdul Jabbar reminisces about Shabda Shainik Bipul Bhattacharya, as his body is kept at the central Shaheed Minar. Noted artistes, cultural organisations and Bhattacharya's musical comrades of Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra thronged the Shaheed Minar yesterday to pay their last tributes to the renowned folk artiste.

PHOTO: ATL AAKASH

AFA institute observes 9th anniversary

Organisation with an edge

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

AFA Institute, a leading cultural organisation of the district, observed its 9th founding anniversary on Friday.

A discussion and cultural programme were held to mark the occasion at Pabna Town Hall premises on Friday night. Prominent Nazrul Sangeet exponent Belal Uddin Zoardar inaugurated the day long programme. Additional Deputy Commissioner AFM Alauddin chaired the programme, while the Superintendent of Pabna Police Miraz Uddin Ahmed spoke as the chief guest.

Among others, artistes Masum Aziz, Sabiha Zaman, educationist Professor Md. Kamruzzaman, engineer Abdul Kader, GM, Universal Group, Achinta Ghosh and secretary of Ekushey Boi Mela Udzapan Parishad Zakir Hossain spoke on the occasion.

The speakers emphasised the necessity of cultural organisations in creating artistes, adding that such organisations needed patronage.

Later, local artistes gave music and dance performances and recited poems. A children's painting and cultural competition were also held. Winners of the competition were also awarded.

AFA institute started its journey on July 5, 2009. "Young artists are trained in music, dance and other arts. Poor and vulnerable children get a special opportunity to train here," said Ashraf Hossain Robi, founder of the organisation.

Loko Natyadal turns 32

"Shunagorik-er Shondhane" to be staged



A scene from "Shunagorik-er Shondhane". STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking the 32nd anniversary (July 6) of Loko Natyadal (Banani), present and former members of the theatre troupe held a get together at the rehearsal hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) yesterday. The troupe conferred their greetings to theatre goers, patrons, well-wishers and fellow theatre activists. The troupe has brought many local and foreign productions to the stage since its inception in 1981.

The troupe will stage their latest production "Shunagorik-er Shondhane" at 7pm today at the Studio Theatre Hall of BSA. Written by Professor Malay Bhoomik and directed by Khairul Alam Tipu, the production premiered in April, this year.

Ultraviolet to be staged

Lamia Saiyara Mela, an artiste of dance school Shadhona rehearses for their "Ultraviolet", an experimental production based on contemporary dance which imbibes from the Kathak tradition and diversifies into creative contemporary movements. Abu Naim directs "Ultraviolet" as his first production, the first staging of which will be held at 6:30pm on July 9 at the Dance and Music Department auditorium of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Lux and Lockets

A total of 100 winners of the "Buy a Lux and Win a Diamond Locket" campaign were handed their prizes in Chittagong on July 6. The lockets are being awarded to winners in other parts of the country as well, according to a press release.

A total of 2,000 lockets are up for grabs under the campaign, in which consumers must send in the codes on the wrapper of Lux soap through SMS, and answer a simple question. Five hundred lockets have been handed over so far in Dhaka, Chittagong, Mymensingh and Khulna.

