

WHAT'S ON
 Print Exhibition
 Artist: Biren Shome
 Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi
 Date: June 28-July 24
 Time: 3-8pm



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



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



Group Exhibition
 Marking Ten-Year Journey of Galleri Kaya
 Title: Glimpses
 Venue: H-20, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara
 Date: June 21-July 20



NEWS bytes

Photo contest on "Nature in Sylhet" held

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet
 The ministry of Information organised an exhibition of photographs on 'Nature in Sylhet' on Saturday. A competition of 74 photographs was also held the same day. Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet Md. Shahidul Islam handed over prizes to the winners at a brief function after the daylong exhibition on the city's Surma riverside at Kean bridge area. A number of professional photographers from the print and other media took part in the contest. The Daily Prothom Alo's photographer in Sylhet Anis Mahmud came in first for his photo styled 'Banglar Prokriti' on Ratargul swamp forest of Sylhet while Abdul Baten Faisal of the Daily Sylheter Dak and photographer Nazmul Liton were the second and third prize winners respectively. A number of Bauls rendered songs at the function while Deputy Director Information Julia Jesmine Milli delivered an address.



Nature as muse
Artist Aminul Islam's 2nd death anniversary

TAKIR HOSSAIN
 Aminul Islam was one of the senior most and acclaimed painters in our country. He made a vast contribution by introducing modern paintings in Bangladesh. He gradually changed his styles, and established himself as a significant painter in Bangladesh. July 8 marked the second death anniversary of Islam. Passionate and imaginative, Islam shied away from overexposure and any commercial lure. He was a workaholic and believed in fine creations. He was extremely cordial and supportive, particularly towards promising painters. I distinctly remember my introduction to Aminul Islam at his Gulbagh house in the city. The house was beautiful in its architectural patterns. His studio was spacious and people from every strata came over to see him and his works. Islam was soft-spoken, but bold and uncompromising in his stance.

parents did not want him to take up painting as a profession. After his matriculation in 1947, he sought admission in Calcutta Art College. While in Calcutta (now Kolkata), he met Zainul Abedin, Qamrul Hassan and Safiuddin Ahmed. They suggested that he avoided seeking admission in Calcutta Art College as an art college was to be established in Dhaka very soon. Islam returned to Dhaka with Zainul Abedin. However, since there was no sign of any art college yet, he took admission in Dacca College. The Government Institute of Art opened in 1948. Islam got admitted there and completed his BFA. Then he went to Florence, Italy to pursue higher studies in art. His three years there proved very formative, as he found answers to many of his questions about art and aesthetics. After moving back to Dhaka, Islam's style underwent a fundamental change. Lines, colours and space became the prime focus in his paintings. Throughout his chequered career, he frequently returned to nature for inspiration.

The painter Nurul Islam (now deceased) took me to Aminul Islam's studio. A few weeks after that, I went there and came across art critic Sadeq Khan and artist Ranjit Das Islam was working on an oil painting. We chatted till midnight and various issues came to the fore. I interviewed Aminul Islam, which was published in the Bengali weekly Ekhon (edited by noted journalist Ataus Samad). In that interview, Islam said, "Painters are of two kinds -- one group works with emotions and the other works with intelligence. I am at the centre as both aspects are inherent in me." On completion of his primary education, Islam gained admission to Armanitola High School. He started copying Japanese and Chinese art in school. He would also copy Indian painters' works. He appreciated the cubist and semi-cubist works of Gagdrenath Tagore. However, his

ALL-TIME-GREATS
Frank Zappa: A true trailblazer

FAHMIM FERDOUS
 If a life is judged merely on the time-difference between birth and death, then Frank Zappa was just mediocre; he died at the age of 52. But it is the volume of work that makes Frank Zappa a towering figure of modern-era music. Just like one of his countless hits "Shut Up 'n' Play Yer Guitar Some More", Zappa was a man who strived all his life to create music, embarked on a creative journey in his teens that piled on into a massive volume of diverse work -- rock, jazz, orchestral and musique concrète, and even filmmaking. Born in Baltimore, Maryland (USA) in December 1940, Frank Vincent Zappa grew up in an Italian-American household, but his family moved to various places in the country, mainly because of Zappa's ill health: he suffered from various ENT conditions in his childhood, possibly because of his father's profession - a chemist. His first musical instrument of choice was a drum, as he acquired a snare and started learning the basics of orchestral percussion at the age of 12. He eventually took interest in the works of 20th-century avant-garde classical composer Edgard Varèse, to add to his taste of R&B. As days went by, he developed an interest in the guitar, and soon developed an eclectic, inimitable style. Trying to make a career in music, he started producing music for local artistes, in films and as a nightclub musician. Struggles continued as his eccentric talents -- one included playing a bicycle as a musical instrument at a Steve Allen show -- revealed themselves. Zappa started working at a studio and began a 12-hour daily routine in overdubbing and audio manipulation -- a regime that he took

to the grave. However, his Studio Z was stripped off of all recording material as he wrongly fell into a trap set by local police, and was sentenced to six months in prison. His band "The Mothers of Invention" was formed in the 1965, and the next year came their debut album "Freak Out!" -- a concoction of R&B, doo-wop and concrètemusique. The band soon moved to New York, and dished out album after album every year, while also making a name for themselves in

new kinds of music, innovating with recording and manipulation techniques. His short endeavours in filmmaking also spoke of his innovation -- his debut film "200 Motels" -- a film about the life of a rock musician on the road. It was the first feature film to be shot in videotape and transferred to 35mm. Zappa was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1990 -- the disease had been festering for a decade and was inoperable. He spent his last days recording modern orchestral and



"A mind is like a parachute. It doesn't work if it's not open." - Frank Zappa
 live performances. However, "The Mothers" was officially disbanded in 1969 due to record label disputes and such, and Zappa released his first solo material. The band, however, reunited again, while Zappa also continued as an independent artist. His journey continued through countless ups and downs, accidents, business breakups, various musical associations and dissociations, and changes in influence and style. From jazz to orchestral to classical to his use of the Synclavier (a digital synthesiser), he continued to produce

classical music. He breathed his last on December 4, 1993. In a career spanning over 30 years, Zappa produced almost all of the 60 albums he released, received critical acclaim from all over the West, and musically inspired and influenced many later-era greats -- including rock legends Alice Cooper, Black Sabbath, Steve Vai, Thomas Ulrich and Ensemble Ambrosio in the classical scene, and funk legend George Clinton. His name has been honoured by biologists, palaeontologists and astronomers, alongside by artists and sculptors.

It's True!



David Hasslehoff, listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as "The Most Watched TV Star in the World", thanks to starring roles in both "Knight Rider" and "Baywatch", is also a major recording artist in Europe. After a failed attempt to break into the American music scene in 1984, his next attempt in 1993 was ruined by OJ Simpson. As David was performing, OJ was traveling along the Los Angeles freeway in his white Bronco. People who were watching the concert on TV switched over to the news to watch the car chase. Since then, he has saved his music for his television shows and the European fans.



Michael Madhusudan Dutt Smriti Sangrakkhan Parishad and Shilpa Sahitya O Sangskritik Parishad jointly organised an event marking the 140th death anniversary of Michael Madhusudan Dutt at the Central Public Library, Dhaka. Syed Badrul Hsan, Executive Editor, The Daily Star presided over the discussion. Nishat Afza Arzo was honoured for her contribution to Nazrul and classical songs.

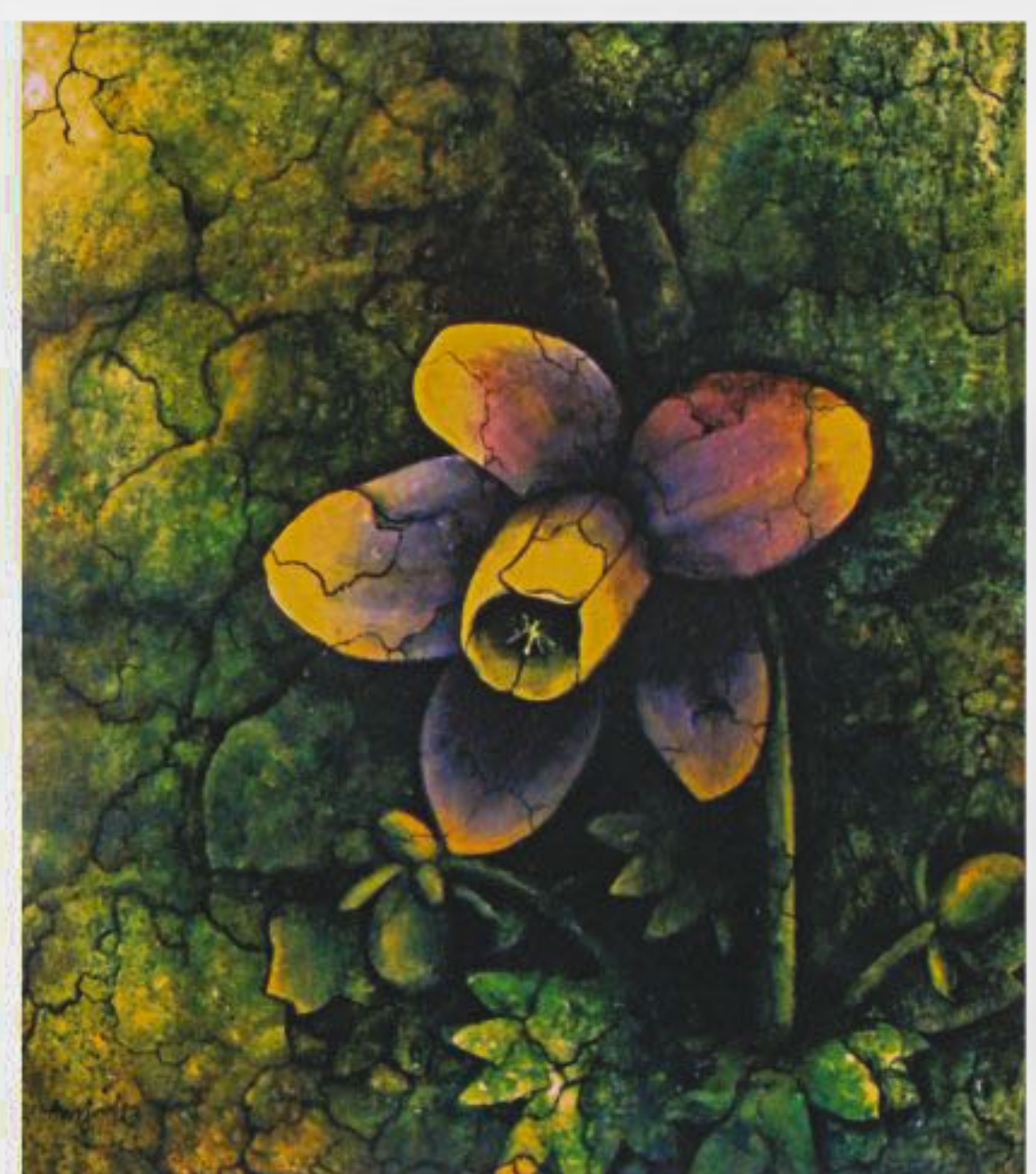


SPELLING BEE
Another finalist through

MOYUKH MAHTAB
 Saif Rahman, a class 9 student of The City School, Dinajpur, emerged as a finalist of the Spelling Bee last Thursday. "This is the second year that I participated," says Saif. "I could not make it past the school activation rounds last time; I made a silly mistake with a word." This year Saif was better prepared as he went through last year's flash cards to help him with the words. He says, the hardest part so far for him in this year's competition was the

Quarter Finals, where he had to spell the word 'vichyssoise'. "I think the words were hardest for me in that round." Asked to share something interesting about this year's competition, Saif tells us how he was mistakenly given a wrong address for the divisional rounds and was almost late. "I think the Spelling Bee has improved a lot this year compared to its first season. The diction has gotten better, something with which I was having a problem last year." The Spelling Bee continues with its Semi Final today at 7:50 pm on Channel i.

Six young artists put their best foot forward
Art group Whistle organises an exhibition



Artworks on display.
FAYZA HAQ
 Art group "Whistle" began a 10-day exhibition at Shilpangan from July 5. It was inaugurated by the artists Himiduzzaman Khan and Rashid Amin. The exhibition is a platform for six young artists to display their works. One of the artists is Tapan Haldar. His works include images of kings with beards, crowns, and ornate necklaces. Their faces are visible between two rows of spears. The images are in beige and chocolate brown. Another artist Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury homes in on figures in caves. There is the print of an outstretched hand and a similar one in black shadows. A figure of a man is etched on the cave. Finger-like projections cover the wall of the cave plus images like a woman's womb. A flying goat or a bird plus an animated figure of man-- along with a white arrow are placed on the images. Meanwhile Amjad Akash's paints a golden daffodil-like flower, blooming against a wall, covered with leaves and buds. Seen hovering around the flower is an insect in search of honey. The petals of the flower are in gold and

mauve. The floras on the cracked wall are in gold, jet-black and green. Fatima Munni's art work is an enormous, smiling female figure, clad in white. She bears a sprig of delicate pink flowers. Her white "Sari" has sweeps of indigo blue and a touch of mauve. In the background are sweeps of gray, jet-black, indigo and yellow. The face of the femme --fatale is in shades of pale jade. Anika Mariam's representation of a bus or a train has a girl gazing through the oblong bit of the window; behind her the crescent moon is apparent. Through the middle window can be seen man's hands and the derriere of a woman--with letters or notes on them. The girl's face can be seen in their midst -- along with the noses of two male figures. While the face of the girl and the hands are in burnt-sienna, the male features--distorted and crude as they are in paler hues. The last image by Umme Shohag has a large fruit-like image divided by panels. The fruit or vegetable, in yellow ochre, has a multitude of squiggles in the background also in yellow ochre and burnt-umber.

Loko Natyadal stages "Shunagorik-er Shandhaney"
at Shilpakla Academy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Loko Natyadal (Banani) staged their 26th production "Shunagorik-er Shandhaney" at Studio Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakla Academy on July 7. The latest production was staged marking the group's 32nd founding anniversary (July 6). The play incorporated some interesting experiments with set, light and costume design, while keeping the storyline intact. Written by Professor Malay Bhoumik and directed by Khairul Alam Tipu, the production premiered in April this year. The play is a political satire: A city mayor wants to confer an award on an ideal citizen imbued with intelligence, self-restraint and conscience. However, many comic mix ups occur as his sycophantic ministers and their cohorts pull out all stops to find such a citizen.



A scene from the play.
 The out and out comedy had the capacity audience in splits of laughter. The cast of the play included Rasel Raj, Tanzina Rahman, Mozammel Haque Papon, Mozakker Alam Rafan, Sohel Masud, Minhajul Huda Deep, Sudhansu Nath, Moniral Halder, Alamgir Akash, Nigar Sultana Mita, Arjun Kumar Das and Ashrafuzzaman Biplob. Qamrun Noor Chowdhury designed the costume and Mujahidul Haque Lenin composed the background music for the play. GM Sirajul Hossain was the light designer.

PHOTO: ATL AAKASH