

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



Tagore Film Week
 Organiser: EMK Center
 Venue: Midas Centre (9th Floor), House 5, Road 16 (New), Dhanmondi
 Date: July 20-25
 Time: 4pm



Painting Exhibition
 Title: Passion for Blue
 Artist: Gopal Chandra Saha
 Venue: Institute of Asian Creatives, H-9, Rd-36, Gulshan-2



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



Highlighting Novera's life and works

Seminar at Bangladesh National Museum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate its 100th year, Bangladesh National Museum (BNM) arranged a seminar on July 8-9 and opened up discussions between internationally acclaimed historians, museum keepers, gallerists and archaeologists.

At the evening session of the concluding day, Jahangir Hussain, keeper, Department of Contemporary Art and World Civilization, BNM, read out a paper titled "Novera Ahmed and her Sculpture in the Bangladesh National Museum". His paper highlighted Novera's eventful life and works and BNM's valuable collection of Novera's works.

Novera Ahmed, the first modern sculptor of Bangladesh, was born in 1930 in Calcutta (Kolkata). She studied in Calcutta and Comilla, and was awarded a Diploma in Design in the Modeling and Sculpture course from Camberwell School of Art in London in 1955. At Camberwell she studied under the renowned British sculptor Sir Jacob Epstein and Karel Vogel of



Jahangir Hussain talks at the seminar.

Czechoslovakia. She also enriched her perspective on European sculpture by studying under the sculptor Venturi Venturino in Florence and later in Vienna. She was influenced by many western modern sculptors such as Henry Moore and the modern art approach of the Western

World. She became a highly talented, audacious and innovative sculptor.

At one stage in her career, Novera collaborated with Hamidur Rahman and was credited with the original design of the Central Shaheed Minar. She sought to include a fountain as part of the structural

design of the Shaheed Minar. Within a short span, from 1956 to 1960, Novera had done about 100 sculptures in Dhaka. Her first and last exhibition was held in 1960. Out of 100 sculptures by Novera, 33 sculptures were collected by the BNM. Her sculptures stand out in respect of history, forms, treatment of materials and media.

Novera has created these artifacts with the rich academic training and practical knowledge that she gained at home and overseas. She has been a keen observer of village life and folk motifs and has based many of her artifacts on what she observed. She has created an extensive family series, including sculptures of loving women with their children. She has also executed male and female figures at different angles. The figures can be seen in relaxed or joyful modes. The BNM has done an excellent task of collecting and preserving Novera's extensive works. Future generations of students, artists, art critics and art enthusiasts will get new perspectives on sculpture by observing the works of pioneering sculptor Novera at the museum.



PHOTO: ATLA AKASH

New silver screen foray for Nayer

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Nayer's consistent performances in TV plays, commercials, and films have given him a steady foothold in the media. Nayer created a major stir with his performance in the Grameenphone Bondhu TVC. Nayer, whose drama "Bhalobashar Chotushkon" is being aired on ntv, recently caught up with The Daily Star over the phone.

Tell us about your new serial.
 Nayer: The drama "Bhalobashar Chotushkon" is directed by Shihab Shaheen. I play the character of Zayed. The play is centered around three couples.

What is the feedback like?
 Nayer: We are getting plenty of positive responses. Shihab Shaheen is a talented director. Working with him always produces good results. Ntv also has a huge audience base, so the feedback is greater. The serial will run for 100 episodes.

What other works of yours are currently being aired?
 Nayer: Channel i is airing "Bonolota", where I play a role opposite Kushum Shikdar. Banglavision is also telecasting "Korta-kahini", where I play an exceptional character.

We hear you have a film in the pipeline. When is it slated for release?
 Nayer: My new film "Rongdhonu" will hopefully be released next year. The audio album of the movie will come out this Eid. I'm extremely optimistic about the film.

Any new silver screen ventures?
 Nayer: I'm doing a movie "Ei Muhurte" by Masud Hasan Ujjal. Lux superstar Momo will star opposite me.

Are you enjoying working for TV commercials as well?
 Nayer: All three of my commercials have generated positive feedback. But the Grameenphone TVC brought me praise all around, in which I worked with Agnila. Wherever I go, people talk to me about the Grameenphone Bondhu commercial.

Are you busy shooting today?
 Nayer: No, am actually enjoying a day off. I and seven of my friends are visiting a friend's house in Rajshahi's Godagari. We're having tremendous fun here, especially because of night-long adda under the full moon. We are also devouring lots of mangoes, and taking strolls on the banks of Padma at night.

TV WATCH

Talk show on World Population Day



A special TV programme, titled "World Population Day 2013", with the assistance of UNFPA. The show, directed by Imrul Hasan, will go on air today at 11:20pm on RTV.



A Kathak-Contemporary crossover

Shadhona stages Ultraviolet

FAHMIM FERDOUS

While the pure form of any art is beautiful on its own, a combination of multiple variants of it -- however far apart they may be -- has a fresh appeal. Experimental dance productions in the country are not a common occurrence, and aficionados of both Eastern and Western forms of dance were in for a treat at the Shilpakala Academy's Music and Dance Theatre auditorium on Tuesday, where dance institute Shadhona held their maiden staging of "Ultraviolet: A contemporary Dance Exposé of Life".

Fusing styles of Indian classical and different Western forms, the production was a heavily commendable effort. The directorial debut of the talented young dancer Abu Naim, the 42-minute production was a thematic, mostly abstract expression of the cycles of human emotions, done in a number of pieces.

The production took a little while to gather momentum; the first few minutes saw most dancers, especially Naim who played centrepiece, a little self-conscious and held-back. However, it soon blossomed into an

expressive, entertaining and, at times, thought-provoking performance. Some of the pieces appeared a little better-rehearsed than others, as the synchronisation -- both of timing and poise -- went off in pieces; the choreography also seemed slightly repetitive in a couple of places. A duet where a female dancer moved in traditional Eastern classical style and the male in Western forms stood out, while an all-male part with Western contemporary theatrical styles also fared very well.

The costumes were well-designed, the face-paints very modern, and the musical arrangement was superb. The narrative recitation also added greatly to the production value. The lights, however, could probably have been used to better effect.

It's not easy for a small group of dancers to hold an audience for 42 minutes with an experimental production, and "Ultraviolet" was a valiant effort in that. Also, some of the edgy parts of the production will probably smooth out in future staging.

The production was supported by The American Center, US Embassy, Dhaka. Michael Harker, foreign officer at the US Embassy, spoke at the



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

programme, alongside Lubna Marium, artistic director of Shadhona.

NEWS bytes

Sheeran guitar to benefit children's hospices

Singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran is putting his name to a new guitar which will raise money for children's hospices. Acoustic guitar manufacturer CF Martin will produce a limited edition guitar embossed with the East Anglia Children's Hospices (EACH) logo. Sheeran said "every single penny" he receives from sales of the guitar, which a UK distributor said would cost about £500, would go to the charity. "All of the royalties from every purchase will go to EACH and I can't wait to get on stage and perform with it," he said.

Sheeran had already donated a drum kit to The Treehouse hospice in Ipswich for its music therapy room.

The guitar will be unveiled to the music industry by GF Martin at the Summer NAMM trade exhibition in Nashville, USA on Thursday.

Source: BBC

It's True!



The movie "Titanic" cost more than RMS Titanic, the ship. Budgeted at \$200 million, it was the most expensive film ever made at that time. It grossed 1.84 billion dollars worldwide, the first ever film to cross the billion mark, and the highest-grossing film for 13 years, before Cameron himself broke it with "Avatar" in 2010. The film also got 14 Academy Award nominations, and won a joint-highest ever 11.

ERRATUM
 The article titled, "Six young artists put their best foot forward" published in Star Arts & Entertainment on July 10 mistakenly mentioned that Hamiduzzaman Khan and Rashid Amin inaugurated the event. The event was inaugurated by Anis A Khan, Managing Director and CEO, Mutual Trust Bank. We sincerely regret

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