

WHAT'S ON

Photography Exhibition on Tajuddin Ahmed  
Venue: Gallery 21, 751 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi  
Date: July 23- August 8  
Time: 12pm-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: Book is Light  
Artist: Proshanta Karmakar  
Venue: Café Gallery, R-72, H-3A, Gulshan-2  
Date: June 1-July 24  
Time: 10am-10pm



Charity Art Exhibition  
Title: Fida's Jonno  
Venue: Zainul Gallery-2  
Date: July 14-30  
Time: 10am-8pm



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



# Living with Art – in conversation with collector **Mustaque Ahmed**

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Mustaque Ahmed is the founder trustee of Dhaka Art Centre. He is an avid art collector and a self-taught painter. His collections include contemporary Bangladeshi master painters, Indian master painters, Western contemporary artists and a number of promising Bangladeshi painters.

He said, "I was a fan of art from my childhood. When I was a student in school, I collected art related posters and often tried to paint. As a student of Dhaka College, I collected some reproductions of Van Gogh, Goya, Picasso and many others."

Mustaque left for USA to study Economics at The University of Texas at Arlington, where he also took Art History courses. During his stay in the USA, he met many celebrated artists, art historians, critics and art enthusiasts. He enjoys visiting art galleries and museums in the countries he travels to, in order to get familiar with the art and the art movement of those countries.

Upon his return from the USA, in 1985, he said, "Dhaka's art scene was moderate and not as exciting as now. Sporadic exhibitions were held at Sheraton Hotel's (now Ruposhi Bangla) temporary venues and more frequently at the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, from where I began collecting photographs, paintings and tapestries of well known artists; namely - Anwar Hossain; Alamgir Haque, Tajuddin Ahmed and Rashid Chowdhury."

Louis Cook, a close friend of Mustaque and a great art aficionado, lived in a quiet corner of Gulshan. He too was excited about Bangladeshi artists and their talents. Together in the late '80s, they organised an art exhibition in an open space in Gulshan, where artists Aminul Islam, Shahabuddin Ahmed, Jamal Ahmed and others took part.

Among contemporary Bangladeshi painters, Mohammad Kibria is Mustaque favourite. He said, "Ele-



gance, simplicity, serenity are the prime traits of Kibria's paintings. I also like his application of colour and the separation of colours in his paintings."

Mustaque has a number of artworks of Quamrul Hassan in different mediums. He collected the works from different sources. He has a fascination for Shahabuddin's paintings and has a number of oil paintings of him. He says, "Shahabuddin's work portrays the strength, power and struggle of the people of Bangladesh; his canvas is not tranquil, and always appears very bold."

Mustaque has a number of commendable collections of Safiuddin Ahmed, Abdul Baset, Rafiqun Nabi, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Monirul Islam, Syed Jahangir, Shahid Kabir, Abul Barq Alvi, Mohammad Eunus, Ranjit Das, Chandra Shekhor Dey, Tajuddin Ahmed and Iftikhar Uddin Ahmed among others.

Amidst the young painters from Bangladesh, Ali Akbar, Mainuddin, Mustafa Zaman, Shulekha

Chowdhury are his favourites.

India's Jamini Roy, Somnath Hore and some other contemporary painters' works have also enriched Mustaque's collections. His collections include prints of Picasso, Joan Miró, Ferdinand Gehr, Malcolm Arnold and drawings of Robert Birmelin. He stated, "Birmelin's paintings are brilliant in the way they confront us with a variety of urban spaces and surfaces, including human surfaces". The painter portrays the energies of a vibrant city (New York) in a continuous realistic image. The images are full of psychological as well as material detail.

Mustaque Ahmed is a self-taught painter who has been quite active in the Dhaka art circuit. He loves nature and its imaginative world propels him to paint. He works on varied subjects but his special attention is on nature and human relationships. He fervently draws the psychological temperament of human beings, their expressions and relationships. The mingling of light and shade creates a silence and serenity in his works. Nature is closely connected to his soul, as he adores basking in it. His colours can be easily interpreted by our soul and mind. Subdued and vivid -- both kinds of hues -- are properly executed on his canvas.

Mustaque enjoys movies and is also a filmmaker. His documentary "Die Million '71" recently received the International Bangla Film Critic Award 2011 in Kolkata. The documentary addresses the subject of genocide during the Liberation War of Bangladesh.

Mustaque has always been very interested in new ideas and contemporary culture and art have always been an important part of that. His collections also have various sections, there is a figurative and objective section, a landscape section, a section on the Liberation War, Language Movement, scenic beauty of the country, and an abstract or cutting edge section. He is open to new thought, which allows him to be interested in all avenues of creativity.

# Comedy treats

Film screening at Shilpakala



A CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has organised a film screening titled "World Best Comedy Film Show" at International Digital Cultural Archive, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka. The event was inaugurated on July 22, and will continue till July 31. The films will be screened from 7:30pm to 9:30pm everyday.

The featured films are "Dumb and Dumber", "Pink Panther 2", "King of Comedy", "The Apartment", "The Hangover Part 3", "Hot Fuzz", "Wild Hogs", "Little Miss Sunshine", "Dr. Strangelove" and "Airplane".

# Two-week Korean Arts workshop at DU



Participants of the workshop with the guests.

The Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs has launched a dream project in the field of culture and art in Bangladesh. An 11-member cultural delegation from the Korea National University of Arts arrived in Dhaka on July 15 as part of a project by the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to provide talented fine arts students of Dhaka University with a short-term lesson for painting, sculpture and video art, says a press release.

The project includes an audition to scout for talented students from Bangladesh, who will then be invited to Korea to go camping with Korean university students.

Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Lee Yun-young believes that the workshop will enhance mutual understanding and further promote cultural exchanges between the two countries, as this year marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of relations between Korea and Bangladesh.

The workshop will end on July 29.

# Abir Abdullah at Visa pour l'Image

"Death Trap" to be displayed at premiere festival in France

A CORRESPONDENT

Renowned Bangladeshi photographer Abir Abdullah's photo project "Death Trap" has been selected to show at the prestigious Visa pour l'Image this year in Perpignan, France. His work will be on display from Aug. 31-Sept. 15 in the village.

Abir's "Death Trap" -- on dangers in Bangladesh's garments industry was selected as one of 25 exhibits on display at one of the premiere photojournalism exhibitions worldwide, attracting the leading photographers, agencies, and photo editors as well as an enthusiastic audience. Last year, more than 220,000 people visited the exhibitions and 10,000 attended the evening shows.

"I am really happy and thank Visa Pour for showcasing my work at a time when the issues surrounding the garment industry are extremely important to everyone, from foreign buyers to consumers, especially in European countries,"



Abir's works focus on the dangers in Bangladesh's garments industry.

Abir said. "I hope the visitors will know more about the people who made clothes at a very cheap cost, risking their lives!"

Abir hopes to attend the professional week, Sept. 2-8, where he looks forward to meeting his photographic peers and photo editors, and have the opportunity to share his work. He is eager to learn from

the other photographers and to see the evening presentations, one of the most important parts of the festival.

Abir is currently working as a photographer in the European Pressphoto Agency as Bangladesh correspondent and a part time tutor at Pathshala South Asian Media Institute in Dhaka.

# Two-day calligraphy exhibition ends



Asad Chowdhury (L) and Abdus Sattar at the exhibition.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A two-day exhibition of about 50 attractive calligraphies concluded at the Jalalabad College campus in Sylhet city on Sunday. Leading poet and litterateur Asad Chowdhury formally inaugurated the event, organised to observe the month of Ramadan.

Former director of the Institute of Arts in Dhaka University Abdus Sattar attended the inaugural function as chief guest while veteran artist Hamidul Islam and Calligraphy Academy president Arifur Rahman addressed on the inaugural day. The college committee chairman Farid Chowdhury chaired the function.

The speakers said that calligraphy is a unique and beautiful style of art and writing. A good number of young artists are developing an interest in the art form. Such exhibitions would definitely increase the practitioners of this form of art, they added. A large number of visitors, including students, from different institutions turned out at the exhibition.

# It's True!



Sophia Loren (born Sofia Villani Scicolone) -- widely recognised as Italy's most renowned and honoured actress, was the first actress of the talkie era to win an Academy Award for a non-English-speaking performance, for her portrayal of Cesira in Vittorio De Sica's "Two Women" in 1961. Originally cast as the daughter, Loren fought against type and was re-cast as the mother; Loren's performance earned her 22 international awards for "Two Women", including the Cannes Film Festival's best performance prize.

ERRATUM In yesterday's article "Prosenjit plays Ashok Kumar", the photo captioned Ashok Kumar was mistakenly printed of Joy Mukherjee, a contemporary of Kumar. We sincerely regret the error.

আমাদের পণ্য

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