

WHAT'S ON


Dance and Musical Programme
 Title: Anup Tomar Bani-Tagore in Europe
 Organiser: Nitya Nandan
 Venue: Chhayansut Auditorium, Dharmomdi



Musical Soiree and Album Launch
 Artist: Ustad Niaz Mohammad Chowdhury
 Venue: Gulshan Club, H-RW/2/A, Bir Uttam Sultan Mahmud Road, Gulshan 2
 Date: Aug 23, Time: 5pm



Nari Jagoron-er Natya Ayojon
 Venue: National Theatre Hall and Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
 Date: Aug 19-24
 Time: 6:30pm



Theatre
 Marking Selim Al Deen Birth Anniversary
 Play: Chaka
 Venue: Natmandal, Dhaka University
 Date: Aug 23-25, Time: 7pm



Street Show of Doodles
 Artist: Mustapha Khalid Palash
 Venue: Hotbread, R-11, Banani, Dhaka
 Date: Aug 6-9



NEWS bytes

Fate of Picasso murals divide Norway

The fate of five Picasso murals on buildings damaged in the Anders Breivik bombing in Oslo in 2011 has led to a heated debate in Norway. A panel of experts has recommended demolishing the buildings and removing the murals. But art experts say that as the murals were designed by Picasso for those specific buildings, they should remain where they are.

The artworks were Picasso's first attempts at concrete murals.

Picasso's designs were sandblasted onto the concrete both outside and inside the buildings by the Norwegian artist Carl Nesjar.

Both buildings were damaged when Breivik set off a van bomb at the foot of H block in July 2011.

A panel of experts has decided the most economical solution would be to demolish the buildings, cut the murals out and place them elsewhere.

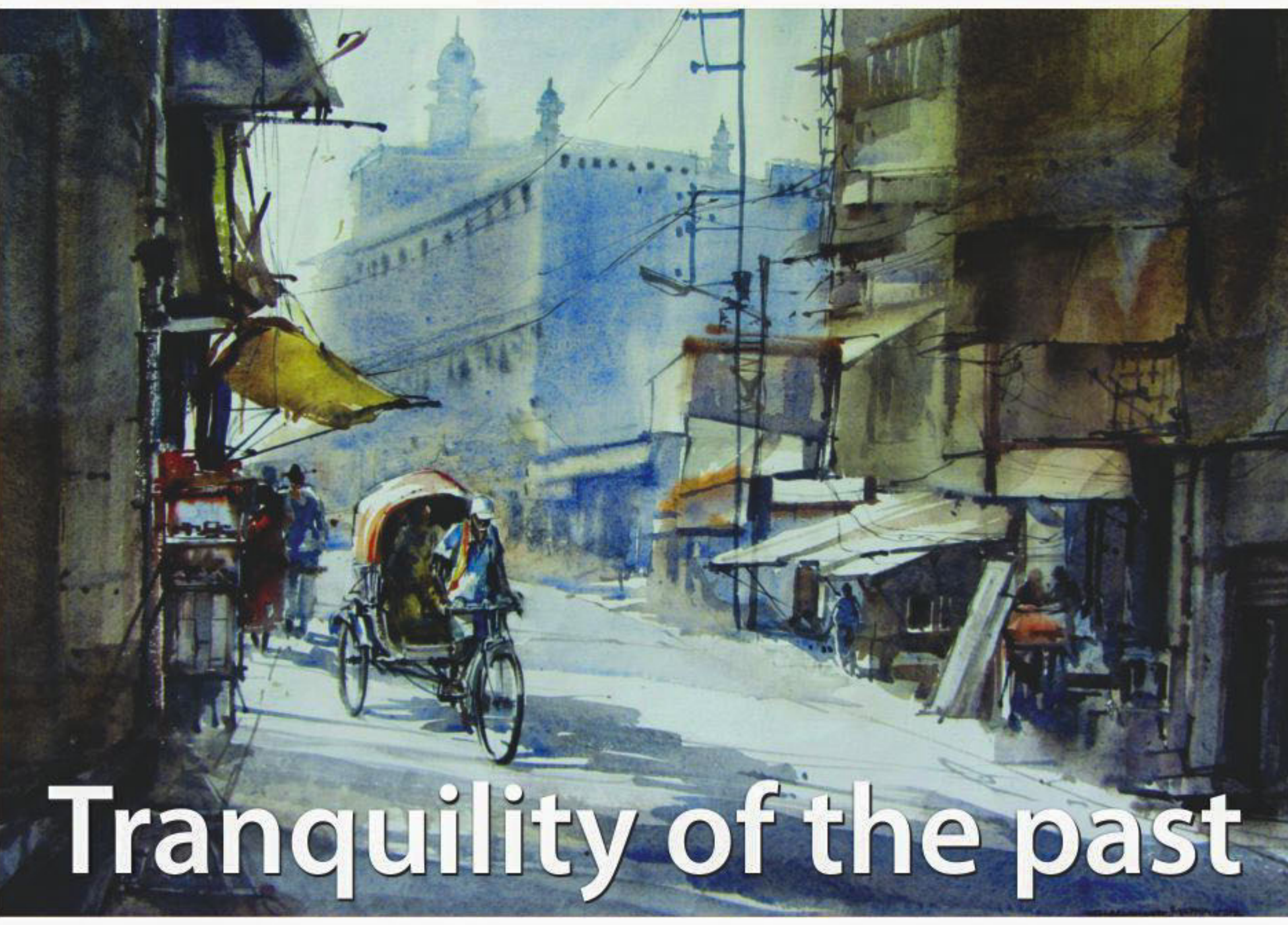


Rahima Afroz's solo exhibition at Dhaka Art Centre



Dhaka Art Centre is to organise a solo art exhibition titled "Symphony of Colour", featuring the works of Rahima Afroz. The exhibition will inaugurate on August 23. Preminent artist Monirul Islam will be chief guest at the exhibition, with architect and art critic Shamsul Wares as special guest. Former deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank Khondokar Ibrahim Khaleel will preside over the inaugural session. Anowara Begum, mother of the artist will inaugurate the exhibition.

The exhibition will continue till August 29.



Tranquility of the past

Water-colour exhibition at La Galerie of Alliance Francaise

FAYZA HAQ

"Jol Bindu" by Md. Shahnoor Mamun at La Galerie of Alliance Francaise displays excellence in water-colour by a fairly young local artist. His depictions of Old Dhaka and nature are marvellous. The exhibition which opens on August 23 will end on September 6.

The guests due at the inaugural include media personality Mustafa Monwar, Robiul Islam of the Department of Ceramics, University of Dhaka, and art critic Mainuddin Khalid.

In his delineations of Old Dhaka, done in beige, black, pale purple, there is the depiction of the older part of the city--which has known Muslim rulers and soldiers of the colonial times. There are black and mauve rickshaws plying on the streets. The houses on two sides are in burnt umber, burnt-sienna and black. The alcoves, windows, and turrets are in pale mauve, black and beige. A bread-van in brilliant red and bright yellow goes by. The rain water on the streets is reflected in orange, brown and gray. We see the nonpareil beauty and harmony of Old Dhaka, with gray, narrow streets. The rickshaw and the bread-van are delineated with precision. This is despite the fact that the artist has used water-colour which one knows is the most difficult to handle. It requires skill and passion to use the medium accurately. The rickshaws, people: as much as the golden images reflected on the dark street have all been dealt with an eye for detail. The windows, roofs and one part of the building, in near black, are a sight for sore eyes--eager for art with depth and care --the paintings are more

than a mishmash of colours and images.

The rain on top of the invitation card folder, bring in Bengal's rain--"the rain it raineth every day" (Shakespeare). The black and indigo blue-people with umbrellas. The sheets of rain, falling on the dark foliage and the backdrop are in sheets of ink-blue and three bits of silver light. The image is truly nonpareil and breathtaking.

The pigeons of Old Dhaka, seen against red, chrome-yellow light are superb. The birds are in gray and are innumerable. They have chests and fan tails. The houses with lit-up windows and with wooden shutters are unique. The wonder of Old Dhaka is here depicted with perfection. The yellow and indigo contrast is indeed magnificent.

The "Riverside of Padma" is depicted with the brown leafy trees in the background. Against the clutter of wooden houses, with wooden roofs, the art work is wonderful to gaze at. This is even when one is in a hurry.

This is again, despite the fact that the more or less a sketch in paints, although with depth, recalls the old Dutch and Spanish Masters. This is even when the maestros worked in oil, and here we confront water-colour. One can comprehend the intensity of the painters' feelings and sympathy with nature. Mankind depicted here are those who happen to exist here and there--six in number--two plying a cart.

The charm of Old Dhaka is found repeatedly in the artist's work. Although we no longer have the magnificence of the "Chhota Katra" and "Bara Katra" the depiction is with a soul pitch. There is a misty mosque, with three minarets looming in the background. At the two sides are the crammed houses in burnt-sienna and burnt umber. They are seen on the twin sides of the narrow street. The shadows of the bystanders and stalls, as well as the single rickshaw create a picture of serenity and harmony. The work captures the peace and tranquility of the past.



ANWAR HOSSAIN critically ill

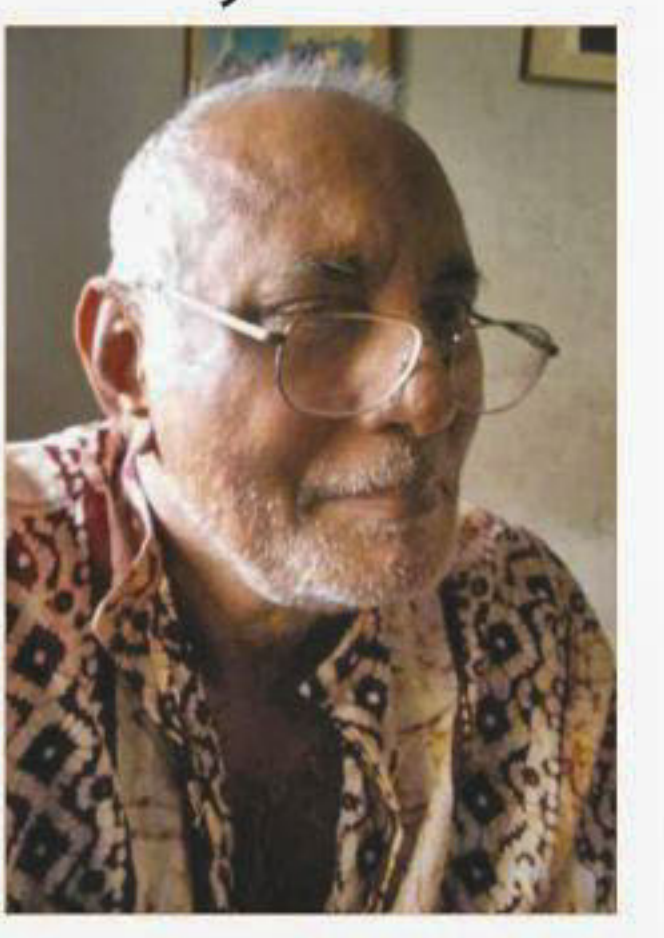
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Veteran actor Anwar Hossain is critically ill and now admitted at the capital's Square Hospital under the medical supervision of Dr. Sarwar Hossain.

Anwar Hossain has been diagnosed with gallbladder stone and put on a saline drip, doctors have said. The course of treatment will be decided by a team of experts.

Popularly known as the "Uncrowned Nawab of Bangla cine-world", Hossain has played myriad characters throughout his illustrious career, be it of a nawab, hero, rebellious youth or father. But it was his eponymous role in "Nawab Sirajuddoula", directed by noted actor-director Khan Ataur Rahman aka Khan Ata, that won the audience's hearts and made him a household name. After the release of the film in 1967, he acquired the nickname of Nawab. The veteran actor has acted in over 500 films.

Nasima Anwar, the wife of the thespian, has sought prayers from all for the early recovery of the talented actor.



IT'S TRUE!



Minimal music is a style of music associated with the work of American composers La Monte Young, Terry Riley, Steve Reich, and Philip Glass. It originated in the New York Downtown scene of the 1960s and was initially viewed as a form of experimental music. Prominent features of the style include consonant harmony, steady pulse (if not immobile drones), stasis or gradual transformation, and often reiteration of musical phrases or smaller units such as figures, motifs, and cells. Starting in San Francisco and New York, minimalism spread to become the most popular experimental music style of the late 20th century.

Birds, Our Feathery Musicians!

TULIP CHOWDHURY

With spring and Pohela Boishakh festivities the most active participants were the humans. But the unnoticed participants, our feathery musicians go on singing in celebration without heed to the political chaos riddling the country! Their solo or chorus songs do not need entrance fees, just lend them an ear and the delightful music is there, no musical instruments needed either! I have once heard our noted musician Mita Huq say, "Music is the balancing of the melody, synchronizing of the musical notes to reach out to the soul." And birds, the nature's gifts to music seem to do just that! They sing thousands of tunes! High or low pitched, the melodies are pleasant to the ears! If we could decipher the notes sung by birds that might open a second heaven to the music lovers!

Rabindranath Tagore might have been listening to the birds' songs when he wrote, "tumi kemon kore gan koro he guni....ami obak hoye shuni....kebol shuni.....".

Birds are known to sing to communicate, in territorial defense or attract a mate. Many song birds are known to sing in attractive tunes to reach out to a female bird. You can hear birds singing in chorus at dawn because that time is usually quieter and sound transmission is easier. The male song birds may be trying different notes to attract the female at

dawn with throbbing hearts! The European wrens are known to have 700 notes per minute and can be heard from 500m away. I feel like the chosen when a magpie comes to sing on my window sill every day. How foolish of me! He sings to serenade the other magpies that swarm the trees around my house!

If you listen carefully to the birds you may identify the notes: C-sharp, G-major or a grand orchestra! You may find more solace in birds' songs than Bach or Chopin's music. Nature has this magic of reaching out to the soul. I often wonder if birds in Bangladesh sing in Bangla? Are they singing away rag bhoirobi or kaharba so effortlessly when after days of practice the human voice fails to settle

to make you love me... as I blend into their world! The birds that sing fast cheery notes seem to be more into the latest Hindi hit songs like the dagabaz or sopnome aite jaite!

Imagination of birds singing in different languages is not so wild! After all some migratory birds are known to mimic tunes they hear on their long flights! Lyre birds are well known singers of mixtures of other bird songs they hear. There are talking birds that can mimic human speech. The hill myna, a common pet and the European sterling are well known to mimic the human voices. Is not the human race getting stressed out with technology and trying to find some solitude in nature? Well, the day might be coming when a radio, a TV chan-



into the smooth flow of the melodies? Here, in Raleigh, North Carolina the whip-poor-wills, gray catbirds, nelson's sparrows and many other kinds of birds sing to their hearts' content welcoming the spring. I seem to hear them singing in English and I get nostalgic and seem to hear Carpenters' Only Yesterday....and Corrs' What can I do

nel, or a website on Internet will start offering only the songs of our feathery friends! The human mind works in unpredictable ways and you may soon be buying tickets to listen to a particular "Birds' Concert of the Year"!

Tulip Chowdhury writes fiction and is a poet.



Int'l Day for indigenous people

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Indigenous artistes enthralled a huge audience at a cultural show held at Lakhipur High school in Moulvibazar on Friday afternoon marking International Day for Indigenous People.

Organisations working for indigenous people in Adibasi Udjapon Committee-2013, Kulaura undertook an elaborate day long programme to mark the day.

Hundreds of traditionally attired indigenous people from Moulvibazar area attended the programme.

Chief guest Parliamentarian Nawab Ali abbas Khan MP and special guest Monsignor Masimo, Charge the Affairs of Vatican Embassy to Bangladesh and other noteworthy figures addressed the gathering.

Vice-President of KUBORAJ Poritush Asakra presided over the event. Monika Khongla and Lisi Summer presented the programme.

The speakers said that the government should take initiatives to preserve indigenous culture as set out in the ILO Convention.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON