

WHAT'S ON

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Rhythm of Xylography
Venue: Gallery Cosmos 2, R-6,
H-115, New DOHS, Mohakhali
Date: Oct 25-Nov 5
Time: 11am-7pm

**Classical Music Workshop
and Film Screening**
Venue: Bengal Café, Dharmad
Date: Sep 26-Nov 16
Time: on Thursday 10:30pm &
Saturday 10am-12pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Shabekun Nahar Noshin
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26
Mirpur Road, Dharmad
Date: Oct 25-Nov 7
Time: 3pm-9pm

Duet Exhibition
Title: When Silence Eats Sound
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60
Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1
Date: Oct 30-Nov 13
Time: 12pm-9pm

Musical Soiree
Artists: Labib Kamal Gausar and
Nobolita Chowdhury
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural
Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan 1
Date: Nov 2

Theatre
Play: Rudra Rabi O Jhalanwala Bagh
Troupe: Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Theatre Hall,
Shilpakala Academy
Date: Nov 1
Time: 7pm

**Album Launch & Solo
Musical Soiree**
Album: 'Mon Deychhe Mele' by
Sumon Chowdhury
Venue: Chayanaut Auditorium,
Dharmad

Homage to Mubinu Azim

Heralding a new trend in contemporary Bangladeshi art



(From left): Justice Feroze Nana, commentator Aslam Azhar, Mubinu Azim and Shilpakacharya Zainul Abedin at the opening ceremony of Mubinu Azim's exhibition in Karachi in 1968.

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Today marks the 38th death anniversary of renowned painter Mubinu Azim.

Azim is considered a pioneer in the Bangladeshi art scene. He and his fellow contemporaries had a great contribution in experimental paintings. Some of them combined local motifs and various western forms.

Since the '50s and '60s, Bangladeshi painters have incorporated a diverse range of familiar, unfamiliar forms and motifs in their works. Though the contemporary art history of Bangladesh does not have long innings, it flourished here within a relatively short period. This was made possible by some painters who studied in the west in the '50s and '60s. Upon their return, the influence of renowned western artists was evident in their works. At that time, some artists took the opportunity to refine their skills and establish individual hallmarks. This period was significant for other reasons as well: these painters introduced many forms of modern, abstract, abstract-impressionist and abstract-expressionist art. Their works had an enriching influence on other emerging painters as well.

Azim died in 1975, when he was at the peak of his artistic career. He produced many paintings, watercolours and sketches in the course of his short career span. He

graduated in fine arts from Bangladesh College of Arts and Crafts (at present Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University) in 1955. A hardworking and reflective introvert, Azim spent a significant part of his career in Karachi -- a hub for artists, poets, writers and novelists at the time. Besides immersing himself in painting, Azim taught at an art institute in Karachi. However, he always kept in touch with his contemporaries in Dhaka.

Azim returned to Dhaka for good after the Liberation War and devoted himself to painting. He held a solo exhibition in 1973 at Desh Art Gallery in the city. After his death, two exhibitions of his works were held at Dhaka Club (in 1976) and Shilpakala Academy (in 1998).

Azim set out as a naturalist and figurative painter. In the early stages of his career, nature played a major role in his works. Along with natural elements, colour was a predominant aspect of his works. The treatment of colour and particularly the composition was distinct and exceptional.

Azim was a socially aware painter. In 1952, he was involved in the Language Movement. At that time, he was a second year student at the Bangladesh College of Arts and Crafts (at present Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka). He had organised a meeting in protest of firing on the rally on February 21. He produced many posters and paintings on the Language Movement in that period. Today Azim's paintings, with their unique lucid quali-

ties, have lost none of their appeal. His canvases are marked with pigment and fluidity. He always used a limited number of elements in his canvas. A good interaction between use of space and objects always carried an individual and aesthetic trademark in his works. Sometimes his works seem to convey the feel of solitude.

During a certain phase of his career, Azim focused on boats. He drew forms of boats that resembled the impression of a new moon or crescent. He strived to maintain a good balance between colour and forms. The interplay of darkness and light was another significant characteristic of his works.

Azim continued his quest for novel and fresh elements in his paintings. He took to using oil paints in a style reminiscent of action painting -- quite akin to the works of Jackson Pollock. Azim was brilliant in designs and texture. His compositions assumed an expressionistic look as red, blue and other bold colours began dominating his canvas.

Azim was hardworking and devoted to his art, which explains his profound productivity in a short career span. With his demise, the country lost a great painter. The saving grace is that many proud collectors are carefully preserving his works.

Azim was an artistic genius who should be honoured with a voluminous publication on his life and works.

NEWS bytes

"Walking Dead" fifth series confirmed

US zombie drama "The Walking Dead" has been given a fifth series.

The show started in 2010 with a six-episode run and stars British actors Andrew Lincoln as deputy sheriff Rick Grimes and David Morrissey.

It follows a group of American survivors in a world overrun by zombies. "The Walking Dead" has been a huge hit for US TV network AMC, which also created the critically-acclaimed drug drama "Breaking Bad".

It attracted its largest audience in the US to date earlier this month, with 16.1 million tuning in for its return.

"The Walking Dead" was inspired a comic book series by Robert Kirkman, Tony Moore and Charlie Adlard. AMC has also confirmed a spin-off show will be arriving in 2015 with a completely new cast of characters.

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!

US actor-director-producer Jennifer Aniston has done a fair share of philanthropic work. She is a supporter of "Friends of El Faro", a grassroots non-profit organization that helps raise money for Casa Hogar Sion, an orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico. She also hosted September 2008's "Stand Up to Cancer show". In the "It Can't Wait" campaign to free Burma, Aniston directed and starred in a video. Other charities that Aniston has supported include "AmeriCares", "Clothes Off Our Back", "Feeding America", "Project ALS", "OmniPeace", and "Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network". Aniston donated \$500,000 to "Doctors Without Borders", Haitian healthcare provider "Partners in Health", and also participated in the megastar-studded "Hope for Haiti Now" telethon.



Akhi

Immersed in music

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Akhi Alamgir has been singing over a decade at a flurry of stage shows within and outside the country. That apart she has gained popularity as a TV host. She also won the National Film Award as a child artiste. The Daily Star recently had a chat with the popular singer. Tell us about your upcoming album.

Akhi: I have done a solo album after a long hiatus. Though the album has been recorded, it is yet untitled. I have tried to introduce some variations and hope it will entertain music lovers.

What's your suggestion to protect the music industry from piracy?

Akhi: I recently spoke to Asif Akbar about this. As anyone can engage in copying, music piracy will go on unabated. The authorities should take punitive action to uproot this malpractice. Apart from this, we should create mass awareness against rampant piracy.

Tell us about your recent film ...

Akhi: It is not acting at all. My performance in the movie "Mayanagar" was akin to my performance in a stage show. I rendered a song for a scene there, at the request of slum dwellers.

As a National Film Award winner in your childhood, will you dedicate some time to celluloid in the future?

Akhi: I have no such plan. I prefer singing and want to stay in this arena.

Do you get offers to act in movies?

Akhi: I am flooded with offers including a suggestion to make a film on my life. Besides cinema, I have got offers for TV plays and tele-films.

Do you plan to continue as a TV show host?

Akhi: I emceed a reality TV show "Power Voice" which gained much popularity. There was no script of the show. I emceed impromptu. After that I got numerous offers to anchor similar shows. However I am not anchoring at present.

You also featured in a TV commercial?

Akhi: The TVC was aired on different TV

channels and viewers liked it very much. It was shot in India. After the commercial, I was flooded with offers.

With a trend towards heavily instrument-dependent songs, where does the music industry go from here?

Akhi: There will certainly be a little bit of a loss where a song is dependent mostly on instruments. But it does not mean that everything is lost. Instruments are accompaniments without which a song will lose its appeal, however, it shouldn't dominate the song.

What are your future plans?

Akhi: An artiste never has 100 percent satisfaction. I wish to sing some melodious songs and remain immersed in music forever.



TV WATCH

Crown Cement Shey Nam Roye Jabe

A CORRESPONDENT

As a remembrance of legendary singer of the sub-continent Manna Dey, RIV will telecast a live musical programme titled "Crown Cement Shey Nam Roye Jabe" at 5pm today. Singer Rezwanaul Haque will present several Bangla and Hindi songs of the maestro.

OUR PICK

Hera Pheri: Hilarious Pandemonium

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On this edition of our weekend recommendation for your entertainment and unwinding, is a timeless cult comedy by a genius storyteller. "Hera Pheri", Priyadarshan's 2000 Bollywood remake of Malayalam film "Ramji Rao Speaking" did not open well at the theatres, but picked up enough momentum to make Rs 100 Crores in India, and is regarded one of the best comedy films of the language. Paresh Rawal went on to win three major awards for his role as Baburao Ganpatrao Apte, Sunil Shetty and Akshay Kumar -- till then labeled action heroes -- brought out a lighter side to them, while Tabu played a brilliant supporting role of the quintessential middle-class girl, and Gulshan Grover fit in like a puzzle-piece into an outright comedy without giving up any of his menacing villain demeanour.

What blends the story so well and hooks the audience is the unlikely of connections made in the story-line; minute details fall into places extremely well in a storyboard laid out expertly, and seemingly random incidents go on to hold significance later in the timeline. Although referred to as a comedy film, "Hera

IGCC's Tribute to Manna Dey

Solo musical evening by Anup Barua



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) in association with Asian Paints, IRCON and Marico Bangladesh has organised a musical evening titled "A tribute to late Manna Dey" by Anup Barua at 6:30 pm today at IGCC auditorium, Gulshan, Dhaka.



"Hera Pheri" technically is a tragicomedy, and the touching stories of the main characters' back-stories are put in the mix seamlessly, taking the audience on an emotional roller-coaster. The sparing but striking chemistry between Shyam (Sunil Shetty) and Anuradha (Tabu) also adds greatly to the screenplay.

Dialogues are one of the strong suites of this film; be it Baburao's snappy sarcastic remarks, Khadak Singh's (played by the brilliant Om Puri) rural-accented punches or Raju's (Akshay Kumar) witty banter, the dialogues are impeccable. And Priyadarshan's signature chaos at the

end, blending in confusion to the verge of anarchy in a hysterical, fast-paced interwine just adds the icing on the treat.

The film's success prompted a sequel, "Phir Hera Pheri" (2006) while a third film of the franchise, titled "Hera Pheri 4", is said to be in pre-production.

Even if you've watched it before, it is one film you can safely turn to for a good time with friends and family on a relaxed weekend afternoon. The appeal of "Hera Pheri" has a very flat curve of diminishing marginal (entertainment) utility.

JIBONDHULI submitted to censor board



Tanvir Mokammel's latest silver screen endeavour, "Jibondhuli", has been completed and submitted to the censor board for clearance, according to a press release. The national grant-winning film is the story of a minority 'dhuli' or folk drummer, Jibonkrishna Das, during the Liberation War of 1971. The cast of the film includes Shatabdi Wadud, Ramendu Mazumder, Wahida Mollick Jolly, Chitrakleha Guha, Pran Roy and Jyotika Jyoti. The film is expected to premiere on third week of November.

Zia Haidar Memorial Drama Medal awarded

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

Natyadhar, a theatre troupe in the port city of Chittagong, organised a colourful programme at the auditorium of Zila Shilpakala Academy, Chittagong on Wednesday evening to celebrate its 7th anniversary.

The theatre troupe awarded theatre personality Shantanu Biswas the sixth "Zia Haidar Memorial Drama Medal" on the occasion. The medal was introduced by Natyadhar in memory of Natya Judhishtir Zia Haidar after his demise in 2008. Since then the troupe has awarded the medal to theatre personalities in Chittagong.

The speakers at the award ceremony said Zia Haidar pioneered institutional theatre in the country. He was the first person to introduce Dramatics as a subsidiary subject at the Department of Bangla in Chittagong University (CU) in 1969, said Dr. Kuntal Barua, an assistant professor and chairman of the Department of Dramatics in CU.

Zia Haidar was the founding president of the renowned theatre troupe of the country Nagarik Natya Sampraday, he said. He said that the memorabilia of Zia Haidar would be preserved in a room in the Dramatics Department of CU.

President of Chattagram Group Theatre Forum

Khaled Helal said Zia Haidar was the pioneer of introducing staging of drama in proscenium in exchange of ticket in the country.

Professor Kazi Mostain Billah of CU, who was present as the chief guest, said Shantanu Biswas is a successful actor, dramatist, drama director, singer and music composer. "Natyadhar selected the right person for the medal this year," he said.

Drama critic Prof Mashur Rahman said Shantanu was also editor of a Drama Journal "Proscenium". Later, a feedback show of the production of Natyadhar "Master Da" was presented. The play was based on the firebrand anti-British revolutionary Surya Sen who is noted for leading the 1930 Chittagong Youth Revolt. The play portrayed the period between the formation of his revolutionary group for independence of the country and his execution by British rulers. The play has been written and directed by Khondokar Ali Murtaza Ali.

Talking to The Daily Star, some members of the audience expressed their reservations about the play. "When you write a play on a historic event, you must do thorough research," said Masum Ahmed, a spectator.

There is a wide scope for improvement for the actors, said Alok Barua, another spectator, adding, "Most of the dialogues were not audible in the back rows."



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