

Art Exhibition
 Title: Serenading Suchitra
 Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, Dhanmondi
 Date: April 6-19
 Time: 12pm-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Crossing Through
 Artist: Shawket Ahmed Apu
 Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi
 Date: April 4-10
 Time: 3pm-8pm




Art Exhibition
 Organiser: Pintu's Fine Art School
 Venue: School premises, 61/2 Lake Circus, Kalabagan
 Date: April 3-15
 Time: 3:30pm-6pm

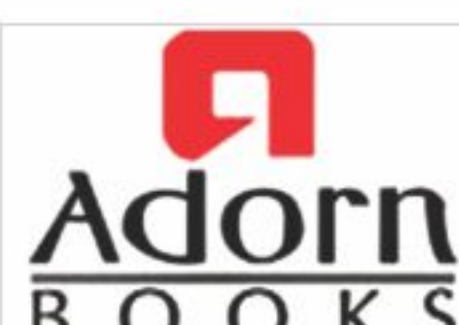
Pintu's Fine Art School
 Prize & Cultural Program 2014
 4th April '14 Friday at 5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.



Solo Painting Exhibition
 Artist: Mahbul Haque
 Venue: Bronia Cafe and Gallery, 68, Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan 1
 Date: March 10-April 10
 Time: 8am-11:59pm



Chaitra Sankranti-r Book Festival
 Organiser: Adorn Publication
 Venue: Public Library Premises, Shahbagh
 Date: Mar 29-Apr 13



NEWS bytes

Dame Helen Mirren to star in stolen art film



Dame Helen Mirren will play real-life Jewish WWII survivor Maria Altmann, who fought the Austrian government over Gustav Klimt paintings stolen from her family, in a new film "Woman in Gold".

The film will be produced by The Weinstein Company and directed by My Week with Simon Curtis.

Ryan Reynolds and "Rush" star Daniel Bruhl are in talks to join Dame Helen, according to Deadline Hollywood.

The "Woman in Gold" refers to a portrait by Klimt, depicting Altmann's Aunt. The 1907 painting of Adele Bloch-Bauer was one of five Klimt pieces returned to Altmann in 2006 after a US court ordered the Austrian Gallery in Vienna to hand them back.

The issue of art stolen by the Nazis was recently brought to the big screen by George Clooney in his latest film "The Monuments Men". It failed to impress critics, despite an all-star cast including Matt Damon and Bill Murray.

Source: **BBC**

SERENADING SUCHITRA
 Through the eyes of Bangladeshi artists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A conglomeration of 32 artists took place at the Shilpangan Gallery in Dhanmondi on April 6, with their own rendering of the legendary actress Suchitra Sen -- who passed away recently, but left her memories to be gathered by dotting Bangladeshi artists.

About 60 artworks are on display at the exhibit, where Suchitra has been focused on in myriad ways. Most of the painters have portrayed her contemplative mood and eternal smiling face. Participating painters have captured her keen eyes and meditative mood on their canvas. Through their inquisitive eyes, artists have captured the strong personality of Suchitra in her most distinguished moments. A number of painters have experimented with her visages in different techniques. Artists have worked with varied mediums like oil, acrylic, pastel, charcoal, water-colour, mixed media, collage and prints in different genres. It is noticeable that most of the artworks have been copied from different photographs of the legendary actress.

Participation of painters who emerged in the early 70s, 80s, mid and late '90s is quite noticeable at the exhibition. The objective is to assemble artists belonging to different age groups, working in different mediums but focusing on a particular subject.

Gulshan Hussain brought a huge cake for the occasion, and all artists, young and old, were gathering for the event in their fineries -- where the event celebrating Suchitra's 83rd birthday, was going on. Eminent writer Selina Hossain, media personalities Sara Zaker and Pijush Bandopadhyay, MD of the Bangladesh Film Development Corporation were there to speak on the occasion.

Although Suchitra fully bloomed as an actress in the 50s and 60s, and there are many stories about her sudden seclusion from the public eye, yet she lives on in the memory of men as an icon of the modern woman.

At the group exhibition, Hanif Pappu, has put colours in traditional art manner. Suchitra has a red sari, and in the other one the actress is dreaming. Shohag Parvez has made a picture in water colour, where the heroine has a grey sari. Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury has done ink drawing. In black and white that seem moving indeed.

The next is pastel by Ujjol Ghosh in which charcoal has been used for her eyes and lips. Ivy Zaman has done an acrylic, where all around, the main picture is burnt sienna and gray. She appears as if taken aback by something unusual -- and so it appears unusually dramatic.

Amjad Akash's "Sesh Boshoto" is half yellow and the other half red. She is wearing gorgeous earrings in one, and posing as a movie actor in the other. Gulshan Hussain has her portrait in royal blue as elegant as her own would be.

Proshanto Kormakar has done his prints in children's slates. Her eyes and teeth speak of who she is, although she is dressed up in a red flowered top and in yellow trousers. In the

painting a synchronized effect. One of them is green and red and the other seems like images have been torn and pasted, in which we have flowers and bamboos.

Rashid Amin's work in dry point is very realistic. The others are impressionistic. It is her eyes and lips that give her away. Hamiduzzaman Khan's impression of her is indeed a moving one. Jamal Ahmed's has eyes, lips and hair done in blue, brown -- the painting almost speaks to you. In his other piece he has used burnt umber and pale pink to animate the image. Her earrings in blue and red are certainly eye-catching.

Biren Some's "Tahader Kotha" are certain scenes from her pictures, and we can make



Artworks by Gulshan Hossain and Ahmed Shamsuddoha.

other one by Proshanto, a negative is shown with a red "teep". Sohai Rana has done a watercolour. Her eyes are huge and so are her lips. Her "teep" and earrings give her away as the legendary actor of all times. Anukul Majumdar has presented her in woodcuts with graphic realism. One is greenish and the next black -- both being true to nature.

Alaptagin Tushar painted a young face and body of the actor. Her hair appears like leaves and the rest of her are converted into roots -- and finally merging with earth. Kanak Champa Chakma has many images of her films. At the bottom there are elephants. At the two sides are leaf patterns to give the



out who the protagonist is by the eyes and lips. Ahmed Shamsuddoha's presentation -- which is on the cover of the book by Shilpangan -- is in an unusual angle and yet appears moving and realistic. It is done in charcoal. Sheikh Afzal Hossain has mixed-media, with water colour and charcoal has all the mediums put together. It is simple but striking. Krishna Chattopadhyaya shows Suchitra as leaning against a wooden panel. Rezauddin Nabi makes his portrait as unusual as possible. Kazi Rakib and Syed Iqbal have their own manners of presentation.

The exhibition ends on April 19.

Bankim Chandra's
 120th death anniversary today

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay is considered one of the greatest novelists of the sub-continent. He is widely regarded as a key figure in literary renaissance of Bengal as well as undivided India. Some of his writings, including novels, essays and commentaries, were a breakaway from the traditional verse-oriented writings, and provided an inspiration for authors.



Today (April 8) marks the 120th death anniversary of the litterateur.

Bankim Chandra was born in the village Kanthalpara in Naihati, in an orthodox Bengali Brahmin family, to Jadab Chandra Chattopadhyay and Durga Debi. He was educated at the Mohsin College in Hooghly and later at the Presidency College, graduating with a degree in Arts in 1857. He was one of the first two graduates of the University of Calcutta. He later obtained a degree in Law as well, in 1869.

He was appointed as Deputy Collector of Jessore. Bankim Chandra went on to become a Deputy Magistrate, retiring from government service in 1891. His years at work were peppered with incidents that brought him into conflict with the ruling British. However, he was made a Companion, Order of the Indian Empire in 1894.

Renowned poet and essayist Zahid Haider said, "Bankim's novels are informative, thought-provoking and well composed. They can be categorised into three genres: historical romances, novels highlighting nationalist fervour, and those reflecting the socio-political and economical conditions in 19th century Bengal."

"Kapalkundala" (1866) was Bankim's first major publication. The heroine of this novel was modelled partly after Kalidasa's Shakuntala and partly Shakespeare's Miranda. However, the partial similarities are only inferential analysis by critics, and Bankim's heroine may be completely original. In "Krishnakanta Will" (1878) Bankim produced a complex plot. In that complexity, critics saw resemblance of Western novels.

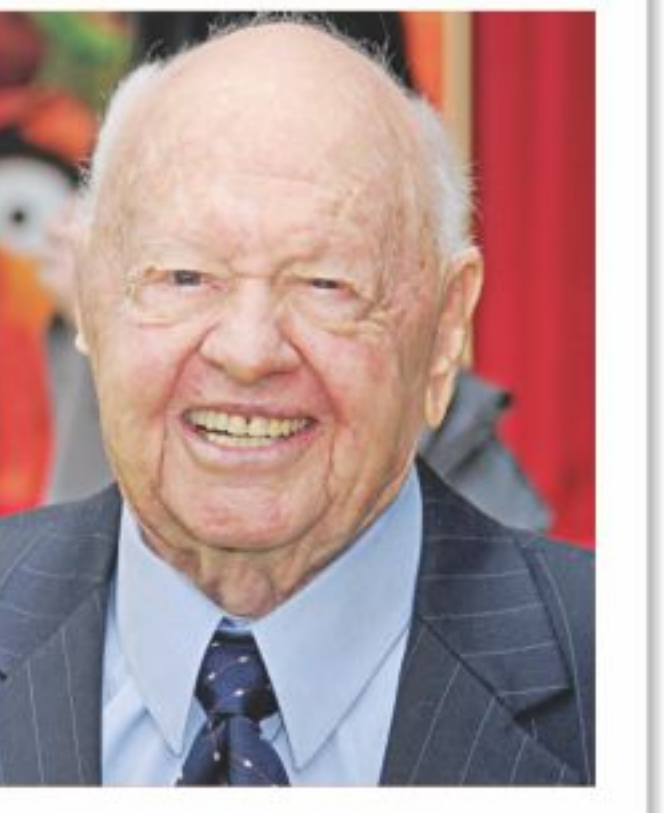
One of the aims of Bankim was to interest people in science and in the progress of the society and country. It was a time when educated Bengalis preferred speaking English instead of their own language. Bankim wanted to promote the love of the mother tongue in the educated Bengalis, and to make them share their knowledge with others through their language.

Bankim Chandra passed away on April 8, 1894.

Compiled by Staff Correspondent

Hollywood legend Mickey Rooney dies

Mickey Rooney, the child actor who became the world's top box-office star in the 1930s, has died aged 93. It was first reported by US entertainment magazine Variety. The actor is said to have been ill for some time.



Born in Brooklyn, he began his career aged 18 months in his parents' vaudeville act, Yule and Carter, and never really retired. Initially named Joe Yule Junior, he was barely six years old when he had his first film role as a cigar-smoking midget in Orchids and Ermine. By 1939, Rooney was established as the film industry's top box office draw, and by 1965, his 200 films had earned more than \$3bn around the world.

In a film and musical career spanning nine decades, Rooney was nominated for four Academy Awards and received two special Oscars, including one in 1983 for his body of work. But despite his success, Rooney admitted his fame had forced him to grow up too quickly. By the time he was 30, he said he felt 100 years old.

Rooney was married eight times, including to the screen beauty Ava Gardner. The show business legend was declared bankrupt by the early 1960s, with much of his money going to alimony for his ex-wives and a reckless lifestyle. However, his career enjoyed a revival with the film Pete's Dragon in 1977, and his hit show Sugar Babies which hit Broadway in the late 1970s.

True to his motto to "never retire but inspire", Rooney continued to work in film, television and theatre well into his 80s.

Source: **Internet**

Govt. Music College delegation visits India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To further consolidate friendly relations between Bangladesh and India, a 19-member cultural delegation -- led by Professor Shameema Parveen, principal of Government Music College, Dhaka -- recently toured India's Visva Bharati University, Shantiniketan and Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata.

Artists of the delegation initially performed music at Shantiniketan's spring festival and Sayarbiti's baul festival. They also visited Tagore memorial museum Uttarayan and got acquainted with the indigenous Santal culture at Santal Palli, adjacent to the Visva Bharati University campus.

Later, the group took part in a discussion



Members of the cultural delegation perform in a programme.

along with a cultural event at Rabindra Rabindra Sangeet Department of the Bharati University, arranged by the University. Professor Shameema Parveen

delivered the welcome address while Assistant Professor Lily Islam and Associate Professor Asma Alam [of Government Music College] jointly emceed the event. Artists of the delegation presented songs written on Language Movement and Liberation War, folk songs by mystic bards Fakir Lalon Shai, Hason Raja, Radharaman and Shah Abdul Karim, classical music, Nazrul and Rabindra Sangeet.

The nine-day visit also entailed another cultural event at Rabindra Tirtha Auditorium, Kolkata. Apart from discussion and Bangladeshi music performances, the event also featured screening of biographical documentaries on Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Fakir Lalon Shai, Hason Raja, Radharaman and Shah Abdul Karim.

Shahid Kabir Polash holds centre stage



Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) organised a Nazrul sangeet recital by Shahid Kabir Polash, on April 5 at the IGCC.

The programme began with his rendition of "Ami Chirore Dure Chole Jabo", and the artiste went on to perform "Shure O Banir Mala Diye Tumi" and "Alga Korogo", besides many other songs.

A talented artist, Polash has won several awards for modern songs and Nazrul Sangeet in the Bengal Bikash competition, organised by Bengal Foundation in 2005.

He has released two albums, "Porodeshi Bodua" in 2009 and "Boshia Nodi Kule" in 2013, says a press release.

The programme was organised in association with Asian Paints, IRCON and Marico Bangladesh.

Bollywood stars engage in election buzz

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

It is not just the parliamentary elections in India which has a number of film personalities like 'dream girl' Hema Malini, 'disco dancer' Mithun Chakrabarty, Jaya Prada and Nagma as the parties' candidates. An extra touch of glamour is also brought in to prod a larger number of voters to polling booths, as the country goes to parliamentary election.

India's Election Commission (EC) has signed up Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan as its national icon. Khan will be part of EC's voter awareness initiatives for the elections and is expected to feature in print and audio-visual campaigns aimed at educating people about the importance of choosing the right candidate.

The actor, known for espousing social causes and raising serious social issues, will join the likes of former President APJ Abdul Kalam, Indian cricket team captain MS Dhoni, badminton player Saina Nehwal and Olympic medalist boxer Mary Kom -- celebrities who have been helping EC enthuse

voters to participate in elections. Bollywood veterans Amitabh Bachchan and much younger stars like Salman Khan, Preity Zinta, Parineeti Chopra and Arjun Chopra have already done their bit, though not as Election Commission's ambassadors, to prod voters to exercise their decisions judiciously.



IT'S TRUE!



Carter Bays and Craig Thomas -- the creators of the popular US sitcom "How I Met Your Mother" -- had approached Jennifer Love-Hewitt for the central character of Robin Scherbatsky for the show, but she turned it down. They later cast Cobie Smulders -- a then-unknown actress -- for the role. Bays and Thomas later said: "Thank God we did for a million reasons... when Ted's (the lead character on the show, played by Josh Radnor) seeing her for the first time, America's seeing her for the first time -- the intrigue of that propelled the show going forward and kept the show alive."

MEGHDOOT
 observes 40th anniversary

K M REZAUL HOQUE, Gaibandha

Locally-renowned theatre troupe Meghdoot observed its 40th anniversary in Gaibandha district yesterday.

The organisation undertook various programmes, including a rally, discussion and reception to local theatre personalities to mark the day.

The colourful rally paraded the main roads of Gaibandha town, and a discussion was held at the local Shilpakala Academy hall room, where Gaibandha deputy commissioner Ehsan-e-Elahi was present as chief guest.

The programme was followed by a cultural function, staging of drama "Ekta Obastob Golpo", directed by Rafiqul Islam.