

Photography Exhibition
Title: Death Trap
Photographer: Abr Abdullah
Venue: Alliance Francaise de
Dhaka, Dhamondi
Date: April 10-24



Art Exhibition
Artist: Iffat Ara Dewan
Venue: Bengal Lounge,
Gulshan
Date: April 13-27
Time: 12pm-8pm



Commemorative
Programme
Poet Fazal Shahabuddin
Venue: Chhayanaut, Dhamondi
Date: April 19
Time: 5pm



Photography Exhibition
Title: Exile in Calcutta
Photographer: Thomas Meyer
Venue: Drik Gallery
Date: April 15-21



Art Exhibition
Title: Serenading Suchitra
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-7,
R-13 (New), Dhamondi
Date: April 6-25
Time: 12pm-8pm



NEWS bytes

Hunger Games

named best film at
MTV Movie Awards

"The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" took the prize for best film at the MTV Movie Awards, as well as best male and female performance for actors Josh Hutcherson and Jennifer Lawrence.

Johnny Depp gave the popcorn-shaped award to two of the film's stars, Hutcherson and Sam Claflin.

Jonah Hill won best comedic performance for "The Wolf of Wall Street", Jared Leto presented Mila Kunis with the best villain prize for



"Oz the Great and Powerful", while Channing Tatum won the trailblazer award and Mark Wahlberg collected the generation award.

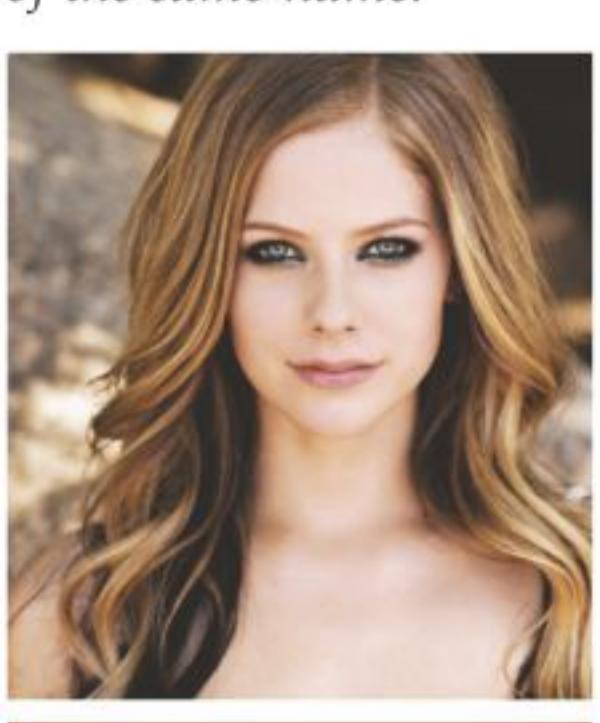
Favourite character of the year was a surprise win for Shailene Woodley, who played Tris in "Divergent", beating Jennifer Lawrence's Katniss in "The Hunger Games".

The awards, hosted by US television presenter, comedian and writer Conan O'Brien, will be shown on MTV UK at 21:00 BST on Monday, 14 April.

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!

US singer-songwriter Avril Lavigne has taken interest in appearing on television and in feature films. Her first television appearance was in a 2002 episode of "Sabrina, the Teenage Witch", performing "Sk8er Boi" with her band in a nightclub. She later made a cameo appearance in the 2004 film "Going the Distance". Lavigne's feature film debut was voicing an animated character in the 2006 film "Over the Hedge", based on the comic strip of the same name.



Russian flavours of music with Silver Strings

FAYZA HAQ

If the efforts at the Russian Cultural Centre had been brilliant, the techniques and style of the original Russian songs by the band Silver Strings was tremendous. The combination of the guitar with "Balalaika", played by Yuriy Klepalov and his auburn-haired counterpart Evgenii Klepalov, in the suit and bow tie as well as handkerchief to match the get-up was splendid. Energetic and lively, they were constantly wreathed in smiles.

Since many in the audience at the programme -- held at the Music and Dance Auditorium of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy recently -- were Russian graduates,

the music was known to all and sundry. The event was held with assistance from the Russian Cultural Centre.

The "dhol", "bashi" "dotara" and the wooden clogs to beat along with the rhythm, as displayed on the two walls of the building, augmented the musical evening. Most of the audience comprised local people -- but many of whom were well-acquainted with the Russian language. Thus many of the lyrics were known and loved by the people gathered there to enjoy an evening of a Russian flavour of music. The playing was in unique unison and admirable harmony, and appealed to one and all. It recalled the dancing in the Russian Tea Room and calling for the sledges in Boris Pasternak's prize-

winning novel, "Dr Zhivago", which had created a wonder in the 60s.

When a second vocal -- Ian Osin, with his tapering waistline and fancy shoes -- joined in with the lead singer Tatiana Cherkasova, the voices were like mighty waves of an ocean. His deep-toned voice was indeed welcome as he sang with all his might and dexterity. As the players of the guitar and the Balalaika went from one phase of notes to another, the singer held forth. There was no need to understand the language, to drink deep of the music and imagine that there was another element from a Shakespearean play, set in some imaginary land of singing and music -- to which there was no end to fun and amazement.

The lighter side of Mosharaf Karim

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Mosharaf Karim is one of the most popular contemporary actors. Recently, The Daily Star talked to the celebrated actor on a lighter note.

Which book appealed to you at an early age?

Mosharaf: Penned by late litterateur Humayun Ahmed, novel "Aguner Poroshmoni" was published in the Eid-special issue of the weekly Bichitra. It was the first book that I read by Ahmed and it really moved me.

What was the first movie you saw?

Mosharaf: The first film that I watched was "Sutorang" in Gulistan movie theatre. Another movie I saw early on was "Matir Maya" with Faruk, Alamgir and Suchorita in the cast. I watched it at Jonaki Hall along with my family in my younger days.

What period would you call the best days of your life?

Mosharaf: My childhood and adolescence, which I largely spent at my village home, still resonates in my mind. Apart from this, I miss my 15 years as a theatre artiste in the troupe Nattaykendra.

Tell us about your new film.

Mosharaf: In "Jalaler Pitagon", I play a negative role. It will take some more days to wrap up the shooting.



What kind of music keeps you company when you're sad?

Mosharaf: In such moments, I listen to many songs of Lalon and Rabindranath, which lift my spirits. I also feel very good listening to the track "Beni Madhob" by Lopamudra Mitra, although it is a sad song.

Do you often lose your temper?

Mosharaf: Firstly, I don't get angry easily. In my professional life, I am always in good humour though at a personal level I get angry with those who are close to me. There was a time when I used to break things when I was

angry. But with time, I think that I am in control of my temper.

What was it like to see yourself on screen for the first time?

Mosharaf: It was a very bad experience. First time over in my life has always been very unpleasant. But the interesting thing is that those unsuccessful events brought a smile on the face of an unlucky man like me at a later stage. That's why I'm very happy. My first play was "Atithi" directed by Ferdous Hasan.

How often can you find time for friends and family?

Mosharaf: I have no free time

at present. However, if I don't spend time with those close to me, I think I might fall ill. So, I go to hang out with Ark and Fazlul Kabir Tuhin among my other friends, no matter whatever the time of night.

What did you aspire to be in your young days?

Mosharaf: As I was almost a regular cinema-goer those days, I thought the ticket checker of the hall was a lucky person who could watch every show without a ticket. So, I dreamt of becoming a ticket checker then.

Is there any character of a book that you identify with in real life?

Mosharaf: Many such characters. For example, noted writer Sunil's book "Monishar Dui Premik" where I found a similarity with my personality. It narrated the story of the love affair of two men. Of them, one is very good looking while the other is ordinary, and I thought the second was quite similar to me.

However, I could not connect with the love story that was portrayed in the book. Also, I think there are some similarities in my character and Humayun Ahmed's-- Himu. While I don't roam the streets wearing a yellow Punjabi like him, I believe that there's a part of every man that is like him.

Folk Festival

commences in Jessore

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Jessore

A four-day folk festival, organised by Uidichi Shilpi Gosthi Jessore unit, began at Rawshan Ali Monch in Jessore town on Tuesday evening.

An enthusiastic audience seemed to enjoy the melodious performances by the folk artistes -- who had assembled from different parts of the country -- till late hours of the night.

Shopon Bhattacharya, MP inaugurated the festival as the chief guest while Advocate Abdus Shohid Lal, Sheikh Robiul Alam, Robiul Alam, Shahiduzzaman, Aminur Haque, Nobonita Shaha spoke on the occasion with Forhad Karim Murad in the chair.

Performance by artistes from different districts followed. Parvin Sultana from India, Chandana Majumdar of Dhaka and artists from Kushtia performed on the second day.

A minutes silence was observed as a tribute to late Ustad Shah Mohammad Golam Morshed of Jessore at the beginning.

Pahela Boishakh

celebrations in Netrakona



JAHANGIR ALAM, Netrakona

Pahela Boishakh -- the biggest festival of Bangalee culture -- was celebrated in Netrakona on Monday in a befitting manner. To celebrate the New Year, Netrakona District Administration, Netrakona District Police, Netrakona municipality, different cultural organisations, and educational institutes took up various programmes.

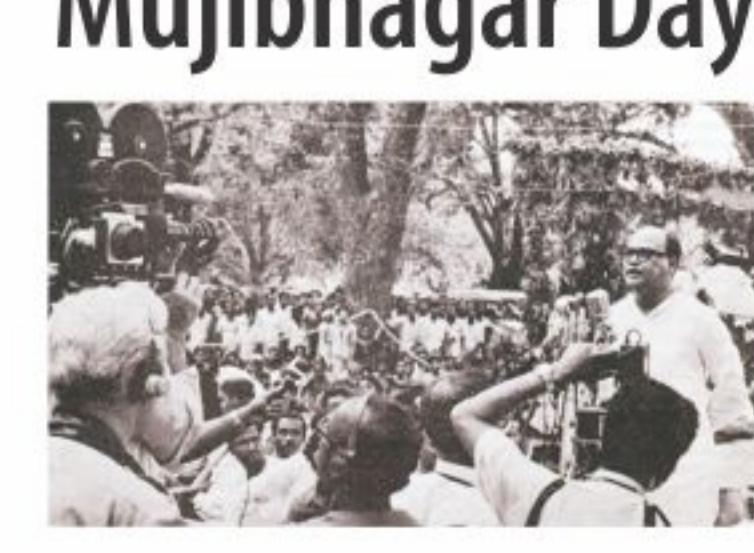
Netrakona District Administration chalked out programmes that included Borshoboron, Rakhibandan, Mongol Shobhajatra, Boishakhi Mela, discussion and more.

At dawn, Muktamancha of Mukterpara play ground in Netrakona town welcomed the New Year with songs and dance, organised by Netrakona Uidichi Shilpi Goshthi, Netrakona Shilpakala Academy and Shotodal Goshthi.

Next, a Mongol Shobhajatra was brought out in the town that paraded the thoroughfares of the town. Thousands of people including DC Dr. Abdul Kalam Azad, Police Super Zakir Hossen and Mayor Proshanta Roy took part at the event. A cultural function was held in the evening.

TV WATCH

Special programme on
Mujibnagar Day



A CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of the historic Mujibnagar Day today (April 17), a special TV programme titled "Mujibnagar '71" will be telecast on Channel i at 6:40pm today. Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque, Meherpur lawmaker Farhad Hossain and Liberation War Affairs secretary K H Mahmud Siddiqui have taken part in the interviews. The programme is hosted by Nasiruddin Yousuff and produced by Raju Alim.

In quest of beauty

Iffat Ara Dewan's solo exhibition at Bengal Lounge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Lounge in Gulshan has organised a solo art exhibition titled "Last Summer", featuring the works of Iffat Ara Dewan. The exhibition was recently inaugurated by Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor. Sandeep Chakravorty, Deputy high commissioner of India was present as special guest.

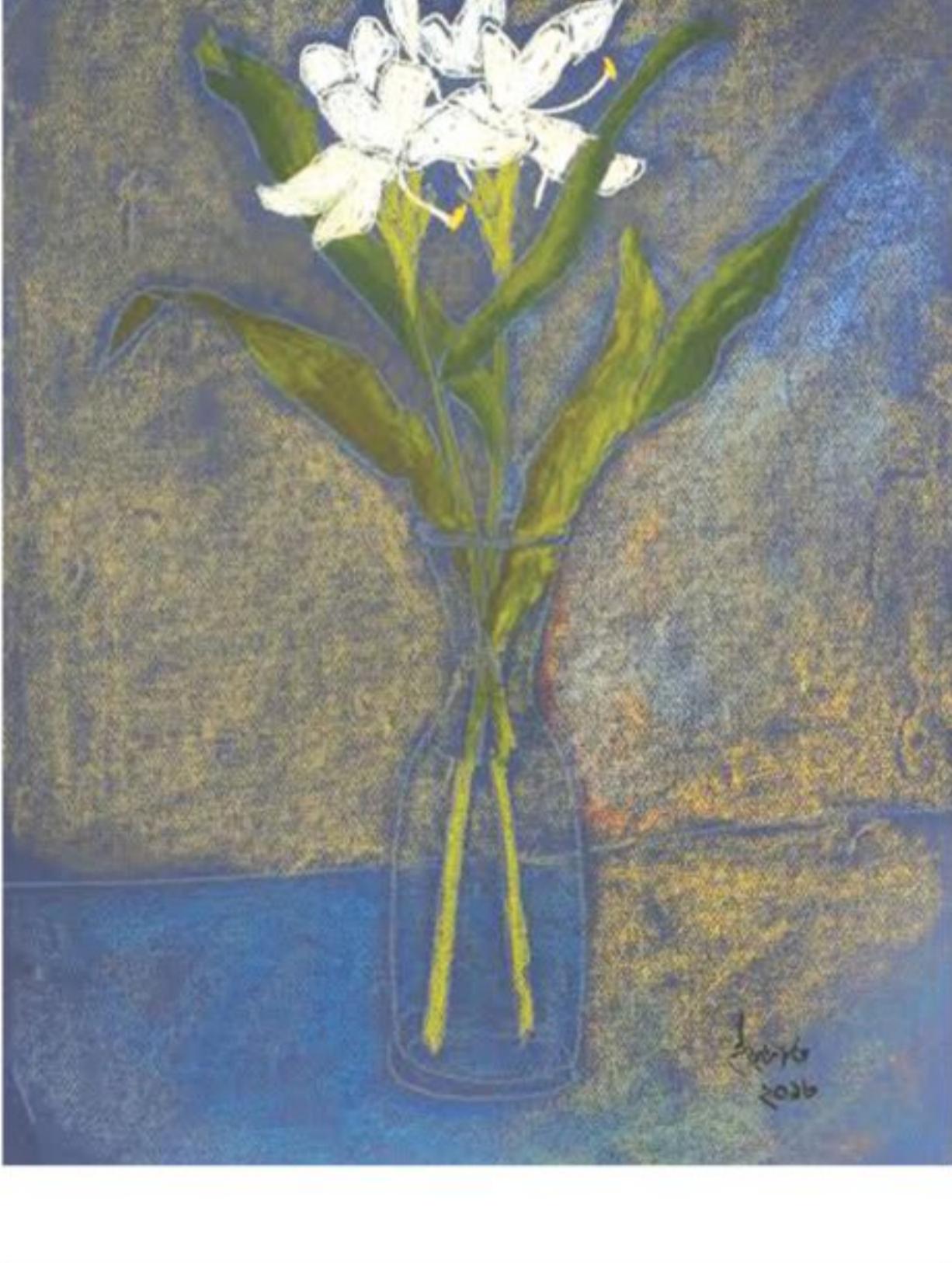
Dewan, a renowned Tagore artiste started to paint in the 1990s. She has been working on the same themes and some of her recurring motifs have created a monotonous aspect.

At the exhibition, the artist has played with varied lines, dots, subdued and vivacious colours to depict still life, inhabited landscapes, empty rooms, emotions, visions and experiences. Her approaches are simple, and at the same time the themes convey serenity and ecstasy.

Around 50 paintings are on display at the exhibition where she has used varied mediums. The artist is fond of flowers and portrays them symbolising beauty and innocence. In her depiction of woods, greenery and flower garden, she describes the elements of hope, romance and beauty.

Dewan prefers shades of blue, yellow, crimson, black, green and grey. The artist makes an attempt to contain her application of colours so that they look reserved, yet vibrant, simultaneously.

The exhibition will continue till April 27.



Boishakh with ISHITA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the leading small screen actresses, Rumana Rashid Ishita, is choosy about her roles. And now the former Natun Kuri champion has turned director as well. In a recent conversation, she talked about what Boishakh spelt for her both in the past and present.

"In my childhood, Boishakh celebrations started very early in the morning. After finishing my dance classes at Bulbul Lalitakala Academy around 7am, I used to go to Raman Botomol along with my parents. That was the high point of the day and it still resonates in my mind. "Savouring panta or hilsa was not a priority at our house on Boishakh. Usually it was just khichuri and sandesh (sweets).

"With time, Boishakh is celebrated with grandeur. I usually prepare different delicacies on the day. On the first day of Boishakh, we celebrate at my in-laws, where I cook different items. In the evening we spend time at my parent's house and relish my mother's cooking. "It has become a ritual to wear red and white sari on Pahela Boishakh. I greatly enjoy the typical Bengali panta-illish on the day. This time also I spent the day with my family in Dhaka."

