

WHAT'S ON

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

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

Grand Group Exhibition
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, DCC Market Gulshan
Date: April 19-May 18
Time: 10am-8pm

Group Exhibition
Title: 1134 – lives not numbers
Organiser: Pathshala
Venue: Pathshala, 16 R-13 (New), Dhanmondi
Date: April 22-26
Time: 3pm-8pm

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

NEWS bytes

“Crouching Tiger” prequel to be filmed



Filming on a prequel to Oscar-winning martial arts film “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon” is set to begin in July. Titled “The Green Destiny”, the movie will see Michelle Yeoh reprise her role as female warrior Yu Shu Lien. Pre-production is believed to have begun. Filming is due to start in Auckland, New Zealand, with two further weeks of shooting in China. Yuen Woo-ping, who co-ordinated the action scenes in the original, will step behind the camera for the prequel. “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon” remains the most successful Chinese-language film of all time, making \$213.5m on its release in 2000. It won the best foreign-language Oscar the following year, with three more awards in the technical categories.

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!



French actress Eva Green considers herself 'nerdy'. She lives alone and, by her own account, leads a low-key life when she's not working. Green has expressed interest in returning to the theatre, and said she has no plans to work in Hollywood full-time. Green has also expressed interest in taxidermy and entomology, and collects preserved skulls and insects.

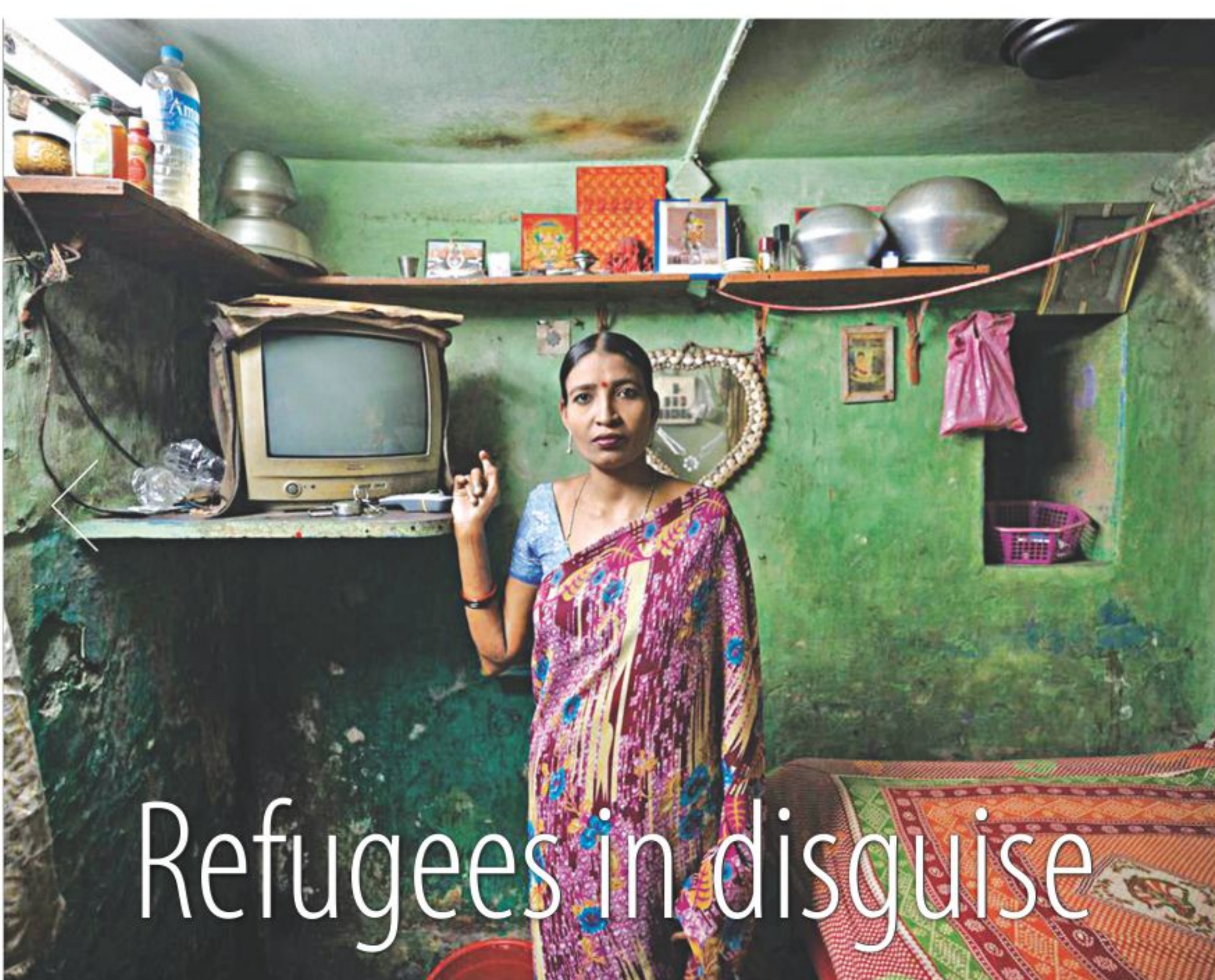


PHOTO COURTESY: THOMAS MEYER

Refugees in disguise

Thomas Meyer's photography exhibit “Exile in Calcutta”

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The partition on 1947 had split lives and livelihoods of Hindus and Muslims alike, in the literal sense of the word, as the British-ruled Border Commission dragged an indiscriminate line across the map of Bengal, even cutting across villages. West Bengal became a part of India, while the Eastern, Muslim-populated part became East Pakistan and later Bangladesh. Communal riots and unrest pushed people to new places, as millions fled from one side of the partitioned land to another. Till today, about 30 per cent of Kolkata (then known as Calcutta) residents have their roots in present-day Bangladesh.

Renowned German photographer Thomas Meyer has photographed and documented stories of just a handful of those people, but still manages to tell a holistic tale. The 18 'environmental' portraits and photographs consist of his series “Exile in Calcutta”, that was on display simultaneously at the Drik Gallery and the Goethe-Institut in Dhanmondi from April 17-21.

The set portraits in the series, of people from across the strata of society – have a static quality about them; the subject against the background symbolising their social position. Artist, surgeon, dancer, choreographer and corporate job-holders to idol sculptor, prostitute, chicken cutter and domestic help – everybody has their own tale to tell. Some of

them moved there before partition, some during and after; some moved when they were too young, while others still have memories of their old homes. The captions are as brief as they are touchy, and show the sense of security that Kolkata provided for the Hindu populace in general, but also a yearning of some of them to maybe return to Bangladesh someday.

The other photos of the series are cityscapes – from crammed apartment buildings to the very cosmopolitan glass towers to the tin-roof slums on the bank of dirty water-bodies – are a brilliant depiction of the societal divide of the city, and how, despite being the victims of the same divide, people have ended up so far apart in their lifestyles and positions.

Sangeet Bhaban celebrates 48th anniversary

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

A folk music evening was held in the port city on Saturday, as Sangeet Bhaban, a prominent cultural organisation, celebrated its 48th anniversary at the District Shilpakala Academy.

Noted language researcher Dr Mahbubul Haque inaugurated the festival as chief guest. In his speech, Haque said folk music is the music of the soul and soil of Bengal. Folk songs depict love, agony, joy, frolic, action and the inspiration of rural life.

Stressing on the need to preserve folk songs, Haque said, “In an era of globalization, the rich repertoire of folk songs is fading away.”

The festival started with the rendition of famous Lalon songs “Emon Manob Janam Ar Ki Hobe” and “Prem Jano Na Premer Haate” by Sadiya Kabir.

Later, Tasif Nur and Golam Sarwar presented “Mon Majhi Tor” and “Holudia



PHOTO: STAR

Pakhi” followed by the “Ore Padma Ore Meghna” and “O Majhi Ei Jhare” presented by Bhuban Majumder and Waji Iftekhhar. Rokhsana Akhtar, Sadek Ikbal, Bibhash Sengupta, Mayisha Mannan also performed folk songs.

Somenjit Chakraborty and Sunil Das accompanied the artists on the tabla and dotara at the programme while Shahid Mridha and Saidul Islam played the flute and keyboard respectively. Kaberi Sengupta directed the programme.

TV WATCH

“Nona Jol” on Baishakhi TV

A CORRESPONDENT

TV serial “Nona Jol” will see airing of its 19th episode on Baishakhi TV tonight at 8pm. Written by Pantha Shahriar and directed jointly Saiduzzaman Talukdar and Jamaluddin Jamil, its cast includes Raisul Islam Asad, Wahida Mallik Jolly, Shatabdi Wadud, Sharmin Joha Shashi, Muntahena Toya, Aditi Mahmud and more.

The serial airs on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.



A brilliant entertainer James Blunt performs at the Royal Albert Hall

James Blunt is a musical enigma. Lambasted by critics, he has nevertheless sold 20 million albums over the past decade. These figures infuriate his detractors: “Who are these people?” – they ask. Well, they were out in force for the London leg of his Moon Landing world tour at the Royal Albert Hall on April 19 – mostly tipsy middle-aged couples and a few family ensembles – and they were having a blast. Even the reluctant toe-tappers who had taken their seats with some trepidation were on their feet by the end of the evening.

Blunt's latest album, “Moon Landing”, includes three singles that surely rank among his best – “Bonfire Heart”, “Postcards” and “Heart to heart” – and these proved to be highlights of the show. His whinier ballads, accompanied by repetitive, plonking piano chords, still grate; the lively numbers are where Blunt is at his best. As he darted around the stage in his Ghostbusters-style boiler suit, working the crowd with ease, his energy was infectious. He was having fun, the band was having fun, and the audience was going wild.

One advantage of live gigs, particularly for artists with several albums under their belt, is the flexibility to ditch the duds – of which blunt has plenty – in favour of a few older

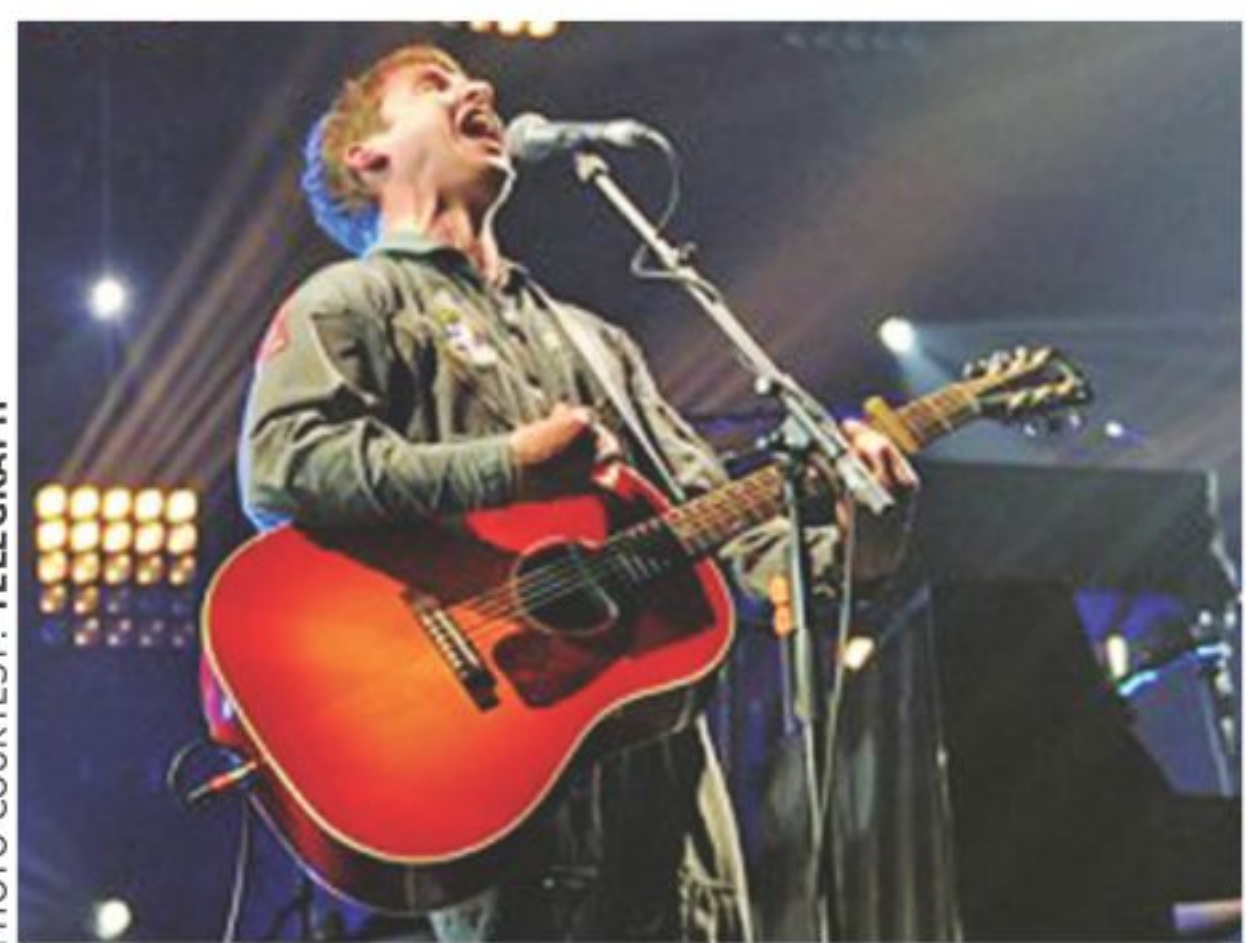


PHOTO COURTESY: TELEGRAPH

crowd-pleasers, and to boost the mediocre album tracks with some snappy stage production and pumped-up pace and volume. His music will never be ground-breaking, and the lyrics often tread a fine line between sickly and utterly vapid, but give this guy a willing crowd and he becomes a truly impressive live performer. At the start of the show, as footage of the moon landing played on screens above the stage, some of the audience wouldn't have been surprised if Blunt himself had stepped out of the lunar module.

The self-deprecating wit that has won the singer the respect of a whole new audience on Twitter over the past year was evident on stage, too, as he quipped about his height, slow songs and Army background.

Perhaps the cleverest thing Blunt has managed to do is turn his enormously ridiculed number one hit “You're Beautiful” into some sort of theme tune with which both he and his fans can stick two fingers up at the critics. After nearly 10 years of switching radio stations when this song came on, the audience found themselves singing along.

In his debut single “High” that opened Saturday's gig, Blunt sings: “It's hard to believe you remember me.” We've been saying the same thing for years, but it may be time we face facts: love him or loathe him, Blunt has blossomed into a brilliant entertainer and he's not going anywhere.

Source: Telegraph

Celebrating 400 years of Dhaka

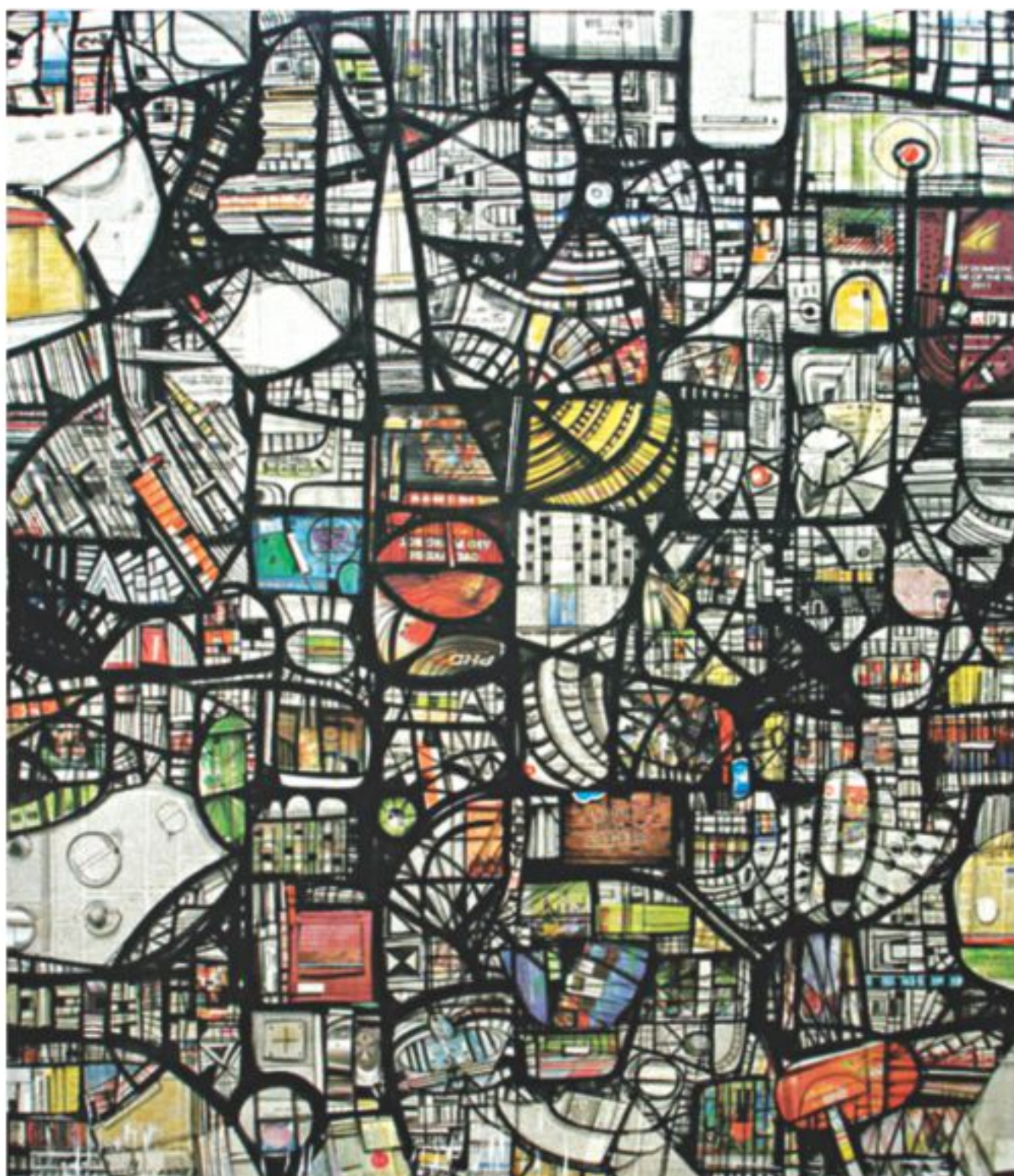
Kazi Salahuddin's solo exhibition at BSA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of the 400th anniversary of Dhaka, painter Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed has organised a solo painting exhibition titled “Insight” at the National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) in the capital.

Nasrul Hamid, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest. Eminent painter Syed Jahangir and BSA Director General Liaquat Ali Lucky were special guests at the inauguration.

About 130 paintings in different mediums are on display at the exhibition. From the beginning of his artistic career, Salahuddin has sought to create something refreshing and innovative, which is very close to the metropolitan community. He hails from Shambazar, one of the historical parts of Old Dhaka, an over-populated area. The place is famous for its cuisine, culture and architectural heritage. These images gave him an opportunity to closely observe his beloved city. The changing city, urban life, socio-economic structure, common people and their way of life tremendously affected the artist's mind. All these elements are meticulously used in his works – sometimes symbolically, at other times directly. With the passage of time, Salahuddin has refined himself as an artist. Consequently, new lines, forms, textures and different types of objects have been added



to his works.

Salahuddin is a self-taught artist. He has no academic background of art. He has completed his MSS in Public Relations, but his passion for art has inspired him to be an artist. He has developed himself by watching exhibitions, sharing views with artists and through regular practice.

Salahuddin's recent series, consisting of collages that echo the urban chaos seen from above – laid out onto a series of sizable canvases. The painter is comfortable working on a large canvas according to his theme, texture and composition. His work is clarified by a powerful engagement with forms, object and space, and with bold, impasto and sweeping brushstrokes. He has played with texture and illusion for the surface effects.

The painter has also collated video art for the current exhibition titled “Migration”, “Internal Ring Tone”, “Rhythm of Old Dhaka”, and “Life breathe Unity”.

About his works, the artist said, “I believe that old Dhaka has much to offer, especially in terms of the advent of individualism that has wrought havoc in our society. My work is, therefore, focused to reinvent the old city. The interpretation I offer, are attempts to portray from a treasure trove of memories, a way of life that if allowed to become extinct which leaves us hollow and empty.”

The exhibition will continue till April 27.