


Art Exhibit
 Title: Poradrishti
 Featured Artist: SM Sultan
 Venue: Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct
 Date: May 23-July 13
 Time: 12pm-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Of Man and Earth II by Syed Jahangir
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60, Gulshan Avenue, Rd-131, Circle-1
 Date: May 31-June 21
 Time: 12pm-8pm daily



Group Art Exhibition
 Organiser: Bangladesh National Museum (BNM)
 Venue: Nalinikanta Bhattacharya Hall, BNM
 Date: May 18-June 17
 Time: 10:30am-5:30pm



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Unconsciously Conscious
 Artist: Abdul Guffar Babu
 Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
 Date: June 4-18
 Time: 3-9pm; 9am-12pm & 5-8pm



Photography Exhibition
 150 Years in Humanitarian Action
 Organiser: ICRC
 Venue: Drik Gallery
 Date: June 3-7
 Time: 3pm-8pm



NEWS bytes

Jane Fonda honoured by Hollywood stars



A cast of stars have paid tribute to actress and political activist Jane Fonda as she accepted the American Film Institute's Life Achievement Award. Actresses including Meryl Streep, Sally Field, Sandra Bullock and Cameron Diaz saluted the 76-year-old Oscar-winner at Thursday's event in Hollywood. Presenting the honour to Jane Fonda, actor Michael Douglas said: "Jane, you are true film royalty, not through birth, but through your talent." Fonda, nominated for seven Academy awards, has won two Oscars for 1971's "Kluge" and 1978's "Coming Home". As she accepted the award, Fonda offered some advice on career longevity for the roomful of celebrities gathered: "Ask questions, stay curious. It's much more important to be interested than to be interesting."

Source: BBC

IN CONVERSATION

"Dance is a rhythmic expression of emotions" -- Pooja Sengupta

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Classical dancer and television presenter Srimonti Pooja Sengupta began learning Bharatnatyam in 1989 under the tutelage of noted dancer Shukla Sarkar. Pooja performed her Arengatram (convocation) in 2000. However, she continued taking lessons from her guru till 2011.

Born in a culture-oriented family, Pooja went to dance school in her childhood. Her parents, noted actor Manoj Sengupta and Nandita Sarkar keenly supported her all the way. "My mother was a singer, though she did not take music as her career. She had perceptions of my creative faculty and she offered me a choice of music, dance, painting and acting as my co-curricular activities in my childhood. I chose dance as I loved it and would dance from one room to another," says the artiste.

"I am grateful to my guru who gave me the opportunity to perform solos at state-level programmes at an early age, even though I was too young for that. From then, receiving appreciation and inspiration from audience, friends and family turned into an addiction that led me here. Choreographed by my guru, I also performed two lead roles -- Kurupa and Prakriti in two Tagore dance dramas -- 'Chitrangada' and 'Chandalika' respectively," she adds.

Besides dance, Pooja completed BS (Honours) and MS in Physics from Dhaka University. But her passion for dance surpasses all. "It is my passion for dance that helped me become the first Bangladeshi student to receive an ICCR scholarship to study Bharatanatyam at Masters Level at Rabindra Bharati University without Honours in the dance form," said the artiste. "What distinguishes Bharatnatyam from other



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADDI RUPON

classical dance forms is its geometric posture and rigidity which comes along with the expression of grace," interprets Pooja.

"Dance is a rhythmic expression of emotions. From the flow of a fountain and the tossing of leaves to the throwing hand gesture of a newborn -- all connote the language of dance," asserts Pooja.

Pooja is currently receiving training from her guru Sujatha Ramalingam of Kalakshetra, Chennai, India. Alongside dancing, Pooja also does choreography for new productions. She loves to perform. "My ultimate dream is to form my own dance troupe. It's an expensive idea. A company will have dancers-choreographers and studios where we can work to bring innovations," hopes Pooja.

40th anniversary of Bahurupi celebrated



Artistes perform at the event. PHOTO: STAR

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Two-day cultural programmes marking the 40th anniversary of Bahurupi Natya Sangstha, a prominent drama troupe in Mymensingh, concluded at Shilpakala Academy auditorium on Monday.

The programmes included staging of a play, dance programmes on Tagore- Nazrul and performances by the students of Bahurupi Cultural Academy.

"Baur", a play written and directed by Shahadat Hossain Khan Hilu enthralled the capacity audience on the opening day of the celebrations.

The students of Bahurupi Cultural Academy performed several dance sequences with the prominent songs of Tagore and Nazrul. Manash Talukder directed the dance programme.

The talented students of the academy were awarded for their performances at the celebrations.

Marking the opening session, a discussion was held. Prof. Helalul Islam, managing director of Bahurupi presided over the discussion.

Prof. Sumita Naha, a well-known Tagore artiste, was present as chief guest at the concluding session.

The speakers said Bahurupi has been relentlessly working to uphold the traditional culture of the country and in its 40 years of journey, the drama troupe has produced many talents in this field who are working in different positions with credit.

Marking the anniversary, Bahurupi declared a year-long programme that included staging of plays, photo exhibition on 40-year activities of the group, drama festival, seminars and workshops.

IT'S TRUE!



Samira Makhmalbaf, daughter of noted Iranian filmmaker Mohsen Makhmalbaf, left high school at the age of 14 to study cinema at her father's film house. She made her first film "The Apple" at age 17, and was first nominated for one of the most prestigious international film awards, the Palme d'Or at Cannes Festival, at the age of 21 for "Takhte siyah" ("Blackboards"), and again two years later for "Panj e asr" ("At Five in the Afternoon"). She won the UNESCO Award of Venice Film Festival in 2002 for her film "11.09.01 - September 11". She was also the youngest ever jury member at the Moscow International Film Festival in 2000, at age 20.

To consciousness and beyond Abdul Guffar Babu's solo exhibit at AFD

FAYZA HAQ

"Unconsciously Conscious" brings Abdul Guffar Babu's works, at his first solo painting exhibition at the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka (AFD) gallery. The display opened on June 4 and will continue until the 18th of this month.

"In my dreams, the subconscious, unconscious and the conscious states intermingle and those leave an impact on my paintings," the artist says.

He adds, "I think dreams are a form of human desire -- a reflection of the fertile mind projecting things to an exaggerated extent, where time and space create what seems intelligible. Events of the days cause them to appear -- they evolve or become displaced in the form of the dreams. In my paintings, dream-infused topics and sometimes forms appear; yet I draw a metaphorical comment and to cater to the minds that are stirred by nature and life. Life in the city and horrors of everyday existence, and innocence of humans, who encounter them on daily basis are my subjects," Babu adds.

Innocence is invoked, he says,



and innocence is what he wants in the viewer. "Forms like human portrait, birds, fishes, buildings, and staircases or forms alluding to the horrors of life are strewn all over my composition, and they often articulate the contrast between the surreal calm and the

agitated self in my work," he explains.

Some elements, the artist says, are very clear, while some are obscure -- as some dreams are translatable and some are not.

Abul Barq Alvi says, "Babu's affinity is towards building multi-

dimensional work. I have seen him being creative with his photography, fashion designs, handicrafts, computer graphics and computer designs, though he had to be focused on printmaking. He has been working on his imaginations from different angles. He has worked with acrylic, watercolour and other mediums."

Artist, art critic and editor of art magazine Depart, Mustafa Zaman says "Babu, active in the art scene has so far displayed multidirectional aesthetical strategy, recently developed which challenges our set notion about art."

One of his paintings contains an abstract form of a horse. It is a dancing horse because of the speed and energy that go with the turbulent hooves and the head of the horse, which are all geared to gallop ahead.

The artist draws the eyeball into the shape of the earth. He draws the earth as golden, and it is vital, he says. The red piece is when man is stuck in evil-doing. His hand, body and legs can be seen clearly as stuck to something. He is stuck in contemporary time, explains the artist.

Nazrul Jayanti observed in Jamalpur



A young dancer takes centre-stage. PHOTO: STAR

ABM AMINUL ISLAM, Jamalpur

Jamalpur district administration, in association with Nazrul Academy Jamalpur unit organised a cultural programme on May 3 to observe 115th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Md. Shabuddin Khan was present as chief guest at the programme. Among others, Poet Sheikh Fazal, along with the vice-president and general secretary of Nazrul Academy were present at the programme.

The speakers said Nazrul was a secular poet and his works helped removing prejudices and fanaticism from the society. "His life and works is the source of great inspiration in different aspects of our national life," the speakers added.

Local artistes of Nazrul Academy and Shilpakala Academy performed at the cultural programme. The programme included recitation, choral and solo rendition of Nazrul's songs and dance in sync with the poet's song.

A group of singers led by Salina Begum, music teacher of the Shilpakala Academy rendered two choruses, while several solos and a dance were rendered by various artistes.



Eva Green criticises ban on Sin City poster

Eva Green has commented on the MPAA's decision to ban her slightly risqué character poster for "Sin City: A Dame To Kill For", dismissing it as "a lot of noise for nothing."

"Oh, my God, I heard about that," said Green in an interview with Vanity Fair. "I find it a bit odd. It seems like it's all just publicity - a lot of noise for nothing."

"You have so many more violent things in the movie business and this is kind of soft."

Indeed, Green is rather fond of the poster, and the job it does of introducing what her character is all about... "I find it really sexy, actually," she says. "It's kind of beautiful. But if it shocks people, I don't know what to do about it. I don't want to upset anybody."

"I don't want to be seen as just the femme fatale or put into some silly box. I hope that people will have enough imagination," she said.

The film opens in the UK on August 29.

Source: Totalfilm

TV WATCH



New serial "Hawai Mithai" begins tonight

A CORRESPONDENT

A new TV serial, titled "Hawai Mithai", begins tonight on Banglavision. Written by Muhammad Mamun-ar Rashid and directed by Debashish Barua Dip, the drama will air Thursdays through Saturdays at 8:15pm. The cast of the show includes Anisur Rahman Milon, Bidya Sinha Mim, Tushar Khan, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Pran Roy and Kazi Shila, among others.

The story is of two families in a village who have a history of conflicts. A political election sparks up the enmity, while the various kinds of people in the village also become part of the story.

Hridoy Khan's new album releases today

A CORRESPONDENT

Popular young singer Hridoy Khan's third solo album "Bhalo Lage Na" will be released today. A number of noted media personalities including Afzal Hossain, Mostofa Sarwar Farooki and Habib Wahid are expected to be in attendance at the event.

Hridoy Khan came to prominence in 2008 with the album "Hridoy Mix" that gained huge popularity among a wide range of listeners. His first solo album "Bolna" was released in 2009 and his second, titled "Chhova" came out in 2011. In between, he released two more mixed under the "Hridoy Mix" series. He has also composed and sung in a number of films, including "Chorabali", "Most Welcome", "Amar Praner Priya" and "Television".

"Bhalo Lage Na" is being released under the banner of Laser Vision. The album is sponsored by mobile phone operators Robi.

