

NEWS bytes

Ancient statue sold for nearly £16m



A 4,000-year-old Egyptian statue expected to raise about £6m has sold for £15.76m at Christie's of London. Northampton Borough Council auctioned the Sekhemka limestone statue to help fund a £14m extension to Northampton Museum and Art Gallery. However, Arts Council England had warned the council its museum could lose its accreditation status. The Egyptian ambassador to Britain said the council should have handed the statue back if it did not want it. Before the auction, Ahsraf Elkholy condemned the sale as an "an abuse to the Egyptian archaeology and the cultural property." The limestone statue is 30 inches high and it was 'gifted' to Northampton in 1880.

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!

Lithography is a method of printing originally based on the principle that oil and water do not mix. It was invented in 1796 by German author and actor Alois Senefelder as a cheap method of publishing theatrical works. Lithography can be used to print text or artwork onto paper or other suitable material. It originally used an image drawn with oil, fat, or wax onto the surface of a smooth, level lithographic limestone plate, treated with a mixture of acid and gum arabic. When the stone was subsequently moistened, the etched areas retained water; an oil-based ink could then be applied and would be repelled by the water, sticking only to the original drawing. This traditional technique is still used in some fine art printmaking applications.



Looking at Sultan beyond his art

Discussion at Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Foundation hosted two events at Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct on July 12, as part of extended programmes of 'Second Sight', an exhibition of selected paintings and drawings by SM Sultan from the private collection of Abul Khair.

The programme began with screening of a video interview of late film-maker Tareque Masud, where he talked about the making of "Adam Surat", a documentary on SM Sultan. He explained how his unit decided to make a documentary on Sultan and why it took seven years to complete the project. Masud also shared his experience and his relationship with Sultan.

The screening was followed by a conversation, "Prakriti o Purush", on representation of women and men in Sultan's art. The discussants of the conversation were artist Dhali Al Mamoon, Professor Salimullah Khan and Professor Dina M. Siddiqi.

Dhali Al Mamoon opened the dialogue, explaining the importance of Sultan's artworks and their relation to his life. Dr. Salimullah Khan stated that Masud was inspired to make "Adam Surat" after Ahmod Sofa wrote a memoir on Sultan that prompted writers to publish stories, articles and novels on Sultan. He also mentioned that



Dr. Salimullah Khan, Dhali Al Mamoon and Dr. Dina Siddiqui at the discussion.

Masud and Mishuk Munier went to Pakistan to photograph Sultan's artworks. Dr. Khan talked about Sultan's unique lifestyle and his roots in the rural areas of Bangladesh, even though he had travelled around the globe. Dr. Khan observed that Sultan started painting again in Bangladesh after 1972 and the subjects of his works are mostly inspired by the Liberation War, and in some of his works (he mentioned one titled "Biplob") Sultan had the courage to critique himself and the methods

and beliefs of society.

Dr. Dina M. Siddiqi started the discussion by pointing to the simplicity of Sultan's lifestyle. After travelling for years, he decided to return to his own land as he wanted to maintain his identity as a Bengali. Dr. Siddiqi said that Sultan's first exhibition in Srinagar was arranged by Canadian women which prove how indifferent he was about fame. She also mentioned that Sultan represented women's physical features as laboring, rather than oriented towards

sexuality or romanticism.

The conversation was followed by an interactive question time with the audience.

"Second Sight", perhaps the most significant exhibition of works by Sultan since his death in 1994, was arranged by Bengal Foundation to celebrate the opening of Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct, the Foundation's fourth arts venue in Dhaka. The exhibition, which closed yesterday, also featured a number of musical performances and discussions in line with Sultan's life and works.

Unexpected journey, unforgettable experience

Arun Saha recalls "Dipu Number Two"



Arun (in white shirt) won a National Film Award for his on-screen efforts; (right) in a more recent photo.

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Arun Saha is an electrical engineer and a Western Classical music enthusiast; a classical guitar teacher and trumpet player. I came across this friendly, polite but spirited person a few years ago on a group bicycle ride, and discussed various common interests on many subsequent meetings. It was after a year that I came to know (almost accidentally) that it was he who had played Dipu in the 1996 film "Dipu Number Two" made by Morshedul Islam based on Muhammad Zafar Iqbal's novel of the same title; possibly the only Bangla teenage cult classic for our generation. In his only acting assignment ever, Arun had won the National Film Award that year for best child artiste. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, Arun -- who never voluntarily mentions to anyone about that glorious childhood chapter of his -- recalled how it all happened.

"When the film was being made, the producers had put up notices in school notice boards and newspapers, and it was my sister who noticed it and insisted that I apply. Thankfully, I had read the book already, so I went in. The audition venue (at Charukala) was incredibly crowded, with some of the

familiar TV faces of our age among them. Their smugness and confidence demoralised me a little particularly because I had never done any acting before, but I went in to sort of 'show off' how cool and smart I was. I was first selected for the character of Nantu, but when I went to their office the next time, Morshed uncle asked if I could do Dipu's role, and I said yes.

"Then the shooting began; that was a great experience. I was in class seven at the time; it was the first time I went to Rangamati, Banderban and Sylhet, and saw those mountains, tea gardens and rivers with crystal-clear waters ... it was all very thrilling. Even the shooting at FDC was a brand new experience for me. But to be honest, it was very taxing too; the film is over two and a half hours long, and I am on screen nearly the entire time. So while the rest of the kids had a lot of fun, I had to work that much harder. Plus, keeping costumes ready and maintaining continuity, for me at that age was challenging too.

"The experience after the release was something else. I was in some sort of a trance, you can say (chuckles) ... if someone gets such fame at that age, it's sort of hard to digest. Our home phone never stopped ringing,

there were letters and cards, from boys and girls alike, seniors, juniors and classmates at school were all hyped up, there were posters on the road, I had to sign autographs and things like that.

"Stardom, especially of that scale, can become an addiction, and I did want to continue, but my family encouraged me to concentrate on my academics. I learned a lot of things every day of the shooting, and near the end of the shooting, most of the scenes we did were okayed in the first take; I could never use that learning and experience elsewhere, and that is one thing I regret."

Despite being limited to a one-hit star as an actor, Arun has seriously ventured seriously into other forms of art. He learned the classical guitar from Iftekhar Anwar in Dhaka and later at a summer camp in Kolkata under noted Bosnian classical guitarist Deniz Azabagic, and has been playing the trumpet for the last couple of years. He has also done online courses on music theory, and one on "Developing Your Musicianship" under the Berklee College of Music, the largest independent college of contemporary music in the world. He dreams of working on composition development, teaching music theory, and to perform jazz improvisations.

Filming wraps on "Fast & Furious 7"

Production releases heartfelt message to fans

Filming has now officially wrapped on "Fast & Furious 7", bringing to a close what must have been a hugely difficult shoot for both cast and crew in the wake of Paul Walker's tragic death.

With director James Wan about to take on what promises to be a challenging post-production process, the film has released an official statement online, explaining just how hard a struggle it has been: "We made it."

Today we completed the last shot in the production of FAST & FURIOUS 7.

We wanted to take this moment to express how thankful we are for your support. We felt the love and strength from our fans throughout this journey, and it's because of you that we got here.

There was a time when we didn't know how we could go on, or even if we should. But we listened to you, and you inspired us not only to keep going but to try and make the best FAST & FURIOUS movie yet.

Our FAST family has been together for almost fifteen years now and has grown a lot in that time. From the start, Vin has



been our leader who feels what's right for FAST in his gut and in his heart. When we had to stop production last year, Vin gathered us back together and moved us forward when we needed it most. He led us to this day.

Some of us have been here from the very beginning. Vin, Michelle, Jordana and our producer Neal all go back to that first little movie we shot on the streets of

LA. We came back to LA in FAST 7, and it was an especially emotional homecoming for those who've grown up with each other since that first shoot.

There are those we count as brothers who we gathered along the way and are with us again: Dwayne, Tyrese, Luda, Lucas and our writer, Chris. We've got some new additions this time in Jason, Kurt, Djimon, Nathalie and our director, James. Caleb

and Cody joined us to honour their brother and help complete his work.

Our family is big and strong but it won't ever quite be whole again without Paul.

All of us -- those who've been here from the start and those whose first FAST film is 7-- wanted to create a special film for him and for you. We believe we have.

Thank you for being there for us. You are the biggest part of our family, and we couldn't have gotten here without you.

The countdown to April 3 begins. With love"

The "Fast and the Furious" series, which revolve around illegal street racing and heists, was established with the 2001 film "The Fast and the Furious"; it has since been followed by five sequels, two short films that tie into the series, and a related video game series. Having earned \$2.3 billion as of October 22, 2013 at the worldwide box office, it has become Universal Studios' biggest franchise of all time.

Source: TotalFilm

Her Words: Storytelling with Saris

A CORRESPONDENT

The inauguration of an exhibition and the book launch of "Her Words: Storytelling with Saris" will be held on July 19 at 5pm at the EMK Center, Dhaka.

Bangladeshi-American artist and activist Monica Jahan Bose will create a site-specific installation of saris and screen videos, made in collaboration with women from her ancestral village Katakali under Patuakhali district. New York-based Bangladeshi filmmaker Nandita Ahmed accompanied Bose to document the project.

US Ambassador Dan W. Mozena will attend the programme as chief guest, along with special guests Dr. Saleemul Huq, Director of International Centre for Climate Change and Development; Art critic Professor Moinuddin Khaled and Enayet Khan, chairman of Cosmos Group and Cosmos Gallery.

"Her Words" is a first for Bangladesh as it presents a collaborative art and advocacy project "Storytelling with Saris". The project highlights the educational and environmental achievements of the women of remote island communities of Katakali, an area threatened by climate change.

"Storytelling with Saris" presents the stories of a resilient, inspiring community. The project has been exhibited in a number of prominent venues in the US.



Dhonni Meye on Channel 9

A CORRESPONDENT

A new drama serial titled "Dhonni Meye" will go on air on Channel 9 from tomorrow night. Written and directed by Matiya Banu Shuku, the serial casts Abul Hayat, Dolly Zahur, Dipanwita Halder, Swagata, Intekhab Dinar and others. The plot revolves around a government employee Anwar and his three daughters Bipasha, Manisha and Tanisha who have vastly different temperaments. Their father cannot afford to fulfill their needs so they decide to live independently. Meanwhile, their father dies leading to a crisis. The serial will run from Tuesday to Thursday at 8:30 pm.



Eid special drama on Channel i



A CORRESPONDENT

A special single-episode TV play, titled "Mone Rekho Mitthey" will air on Channel i during Eid. Written by Masum Reza and directed by Touhid Mitul, the drama casts Chanchal Chowdhury and Jui, along with AKM Hasan, Mahbuba Parveen among others. The triangular love story is set in a village, which adds a dose of humour to the play. Chanchal has played an unconventional role in the drama.



Renowned painter Masuma Khan is seen conducting a children's painting workshop at South Breeze School, Dhanmondi. The workshop held every Friday and Saturday will continue till August 15.