

WHAT'S ON

ITI Theatre Fest
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 13-21
Time: 7pm



International Theatre Institute
World Organisation for the Performing Arts

Theatre
Play: Shey Raat-e Purnima Chhilo
Troupe: Arshinagar
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: Mar 17; Time: 7pm



Theatre
Play: Poramati
Troupe: Padatik Bangladesh
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: Mar 17
Time: 7pm




5th Oriental Painting Exhibition
Organiser: Oriental Painting Study Group
Venue: Zainul Gallery-1&2, FFA, DU
Date: March 17-23
Time: 11am-8pm



Oriental Painting Study Group

International Women's Film Festival
Organiser: Women's Film Society
Venue: Central Public Library
Date: March 14-17
Time: 11am, 2pm, 5pm



Photography exhibition marking Independence Day

AMINUL ISLAM, *Mymensingh*

A two-day photography exhibition marking Independence Day celebrations by Alokchitra Shilpi Sangsad (Ashis), Mymensingh concluded at Chatuogon in Haluaghat upazila on Sunday. Muktiyoddha Sangsad of Mymensingh and its Chatuogon Union unit jointly assisted the exhibition titled "Liberation War and Environment". It was the 54th exhibition of Ashis.

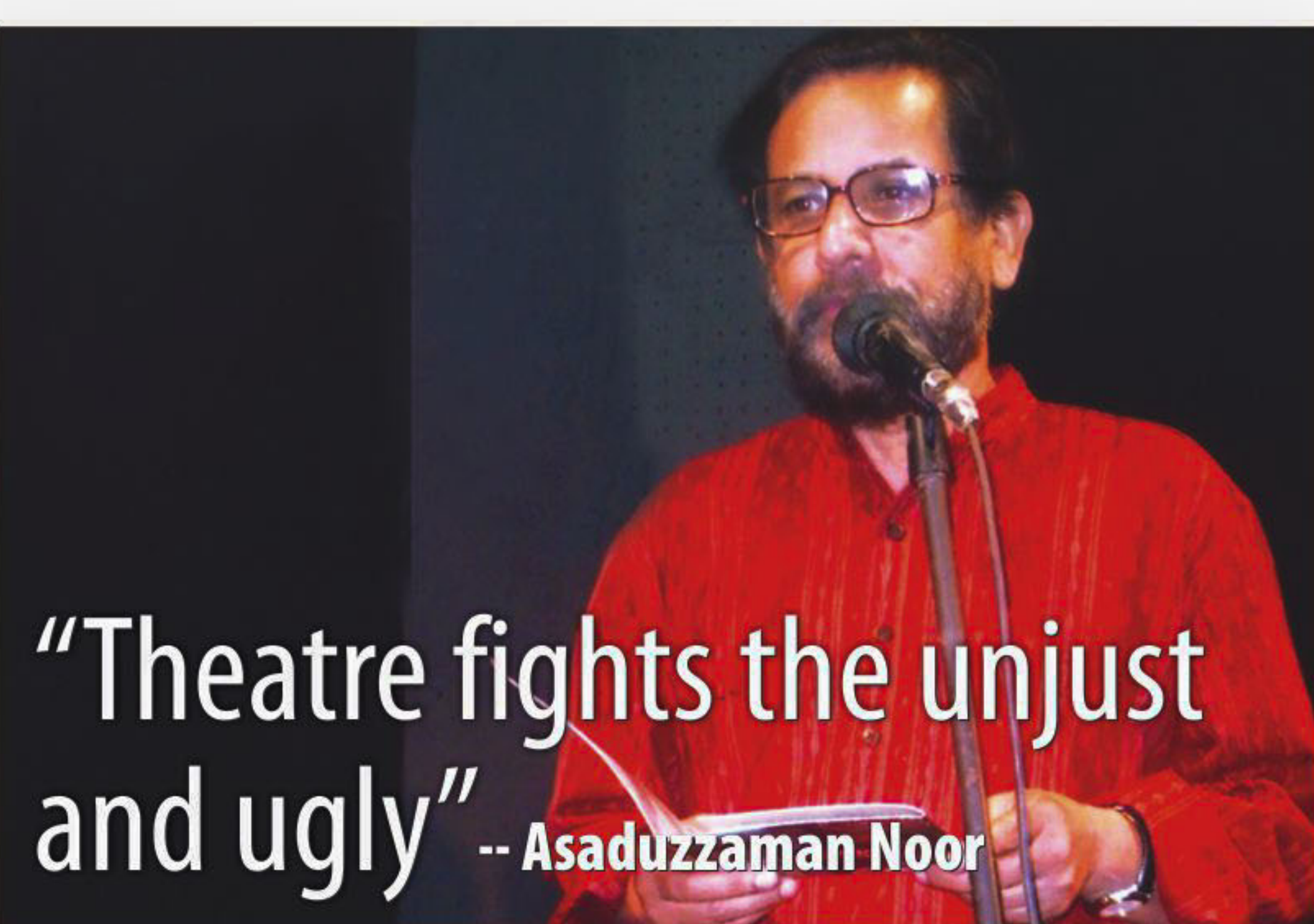
Over 200 photographs on Liberation War and environment were displayed at the exhibition. The photos on the War of Liberation snapped by renowned photographer late Nayeb Uddin Ahmed drew the most audience.

Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh, Mustakim Billah Faruqui inaugurated the exhibition.

Such exhibitions to introduce the young generation with the history of the country will benefit the nation, said the speakers.



Enthusiastic children browse the exhibition.



"Theatre fights the unjust and ugly" -- Asaduzzaman Noor

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, MP is a powerful actor, elocutionist and a renowned theatre and cultural personality. The ministry of cultural affairs has sponsored the 10-day "2nd Dhaka International Theatre Fest", jointly organised by International Theatre Institute, Bangladesh Centre and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. In a conversation with this correspondent, he shared his views on the country's theatre and cultural activism.

"China has been using their culture as a weapon of world diplomacy. They are funding hugely on culture as a state policy. In the West, we see immense cultural initiatives undertaken by the private sectors. Banks sponsor theatre productions in Europe. We have problems here in taking sponsors from any bank or multinational corporations. While some people criticise taking sponsorship, I think we have to change such mentality. Our state budget on culture is very low, which is a problem."

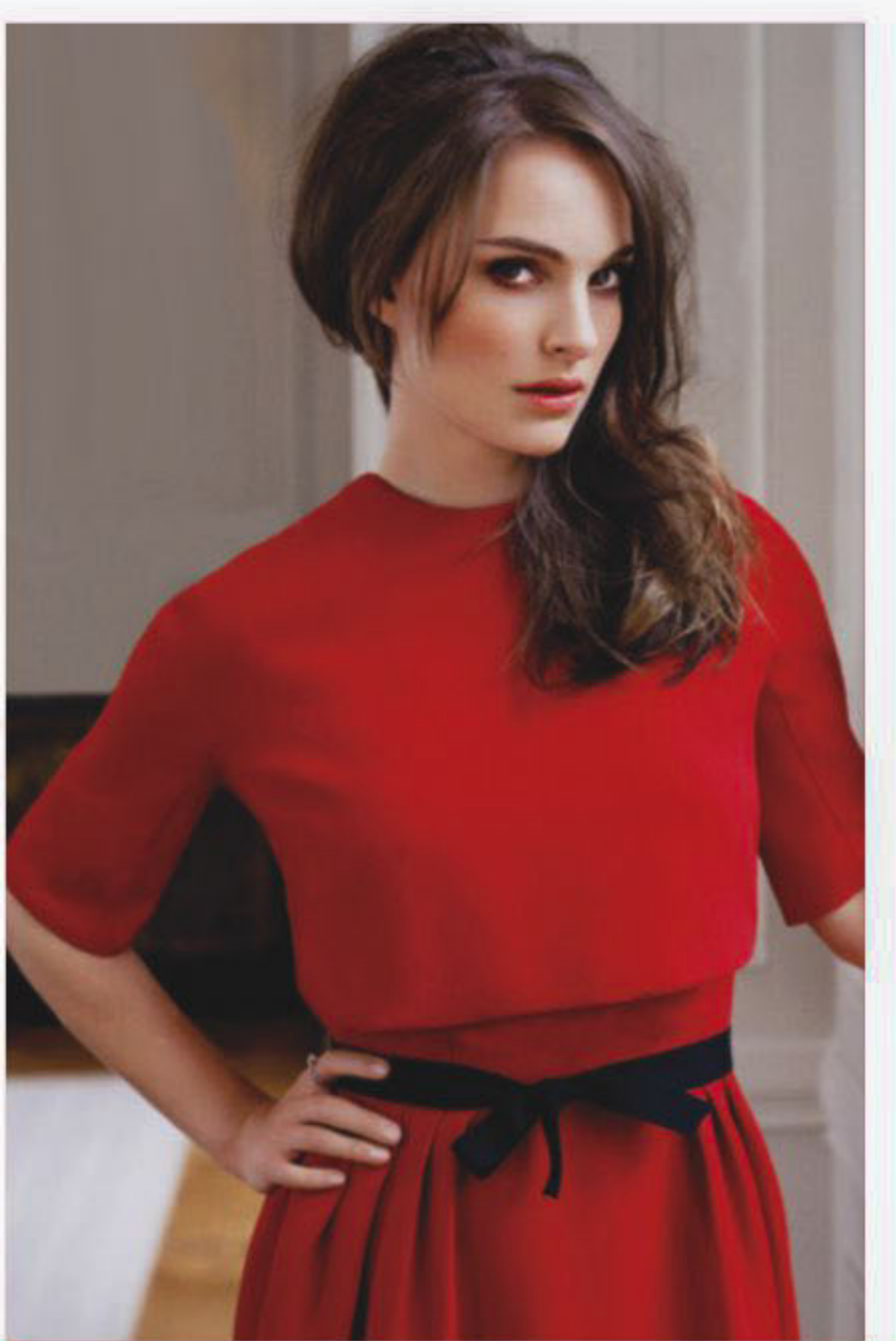
"Culture, as a whole, advocates for humanity. Theatre fights against what is unjust, unsocial and ugly. If theatre fails to represent these, we cannot term a production successful. Here lies the power and nucleus of culture. So, it is natural for theatre to choose its path towards humanity and peace and to stand against any crime and violence. The theme for this year's festival is significantly relevant, and is a timely, spontaneous protest from the theatre activists."

In reply to a question why memorable characters like Baker Bhai are a rarity these days, Noor said, "It is because of the lack of quality playwright. The lack is not only visible in the scene of TV plays, but in theatre as well. Yet, it's a good sign that some young playwrights are writing for theatre. There are some powerful writers for TV play, but I guess they cannot produce their best due to the pressure of commercialization. They have to do what they are asked to do. A powerful writer can create a timeless story, creating legendary characters. An actor cannot express their talent without a good story. I hear present generation actors are not even given scripts... They just deliver impromptu dialogues as per the plot. It's outrageous!"

About the government's initiatives on the cultural front, he said: "Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has now reached at Upazila levels. We have almost completed the entire infrastructural works in all the districts. But I doubt if local cultural organisations avail the opportunity of using those. I dream of resuming cultural activities at school, college and university levels. Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF) is a big organisation. They have wings across the country. If a theatre troupe takes responsibility of instructing students at a local school, Bangladesh will definitely become culturally vibrant -- which is a dire need for the country's overall progress. We are going through difficult times. We all must engage our efforts to bring back the lost pride and heritage of our cultural excellence in making a progressive Bangladesh."

IT'S TRUE!

Natalie Portman is multi-lingual: she can speak Hebrew, English, French, German, Japanese and Spanish. She is also a graduate from Harvard University in Psychology. She took a break from her acting career to attend the university saying "I don't care if college ruins my movie career. I will rather be smart than a movie star." With an IQ score of 140, the actress is a near-genius. Her performance in psychological thriller "Black Swan" earned her first Oscar as the Best Actress, her second Golden Globe Award, the SAG Award, the BAFTA Award and the BFAA Award in 2011.



Natya Repoertory staged their production "Cycle Wala" on March 15 evening at the Studio Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy as part of the ongoing 2nd Dhaka International Theatre Festival. The play, written by Vijay Tendulkar, has been translated in Bangla by Abdus Salim while Irin Pervin Lopa has directed the play. "Cycle Wala" casts Junaid Eusuf, Subhasis Datta Tanmoy, Jannatul Ferdous and Tahmina Khatun.

Nadia and Shanu in new serial

A CORRESPONDENT

Popular actresses Nadia and Shanarei Devi Shanu will be seen as sisters for the first time, in a drama serial "Baji o Bajna". Directed by Sardar Rokon and written by Litu Shakawat, this comedy drama has 13 episodes. Regarding the play, Nadia said, "I have worked with Sardar Rokon as well as Shanu previously. However, this is for the first time we are playing roles as sisters and enjoying every bit of it." Shanu shared the excitement of her co-star: "The story of this serial impressed me and I am sure viewers will enjoy it as much as we are while making it."



Paul Walker looms large over SXSW Surprise premiere of "Furious 7" held at the festival

More than anyone else, it was the late Paul Walker -- the handsome, blue-eyed star of Universal's \$2 billion "Fast & Furious" mega-franchise -- whose presence was most felt at that film's world premiere at South by Southwest -- early Monday local time.

Walker, who plays FBI agent Brian O'Conner in all but one of the films, was killed in a car accident on November 30, 2013, along with his friend and financial advisor, Roger Rodas, who was driving the vehicle. He was 40.

"Furious 7" was mid-production at the time of Walker's death. After a hiatus, Universal and director James Wan, a newcomer to the franchise, decided to complete the film, using Walker's brothers, Caleb and Cody Walker, as body doubles and employing CGI to superimpose Walker's face onto theirs.

The result, it turns out, is fairly seamless, though there are moments, particularly during an extended (and spectacular) sequence in Abu Dhabi, where the digital trickery can only go so far. The film also contains a touching montage tribute to Walker, revisiting scenes from previous "Fast &



Furious" films.

The film was introduced by producer Neal Moritz, who said the premiere had come together in less than 24 hours. "Literally yesterday morning I woke up and was reading all these articles about South by Southwest and I was like, 'Why is Fast & Furious not here?'" Moritz told the crowd. "So I called my good friends at Universal and said, 'Is there any chance we can play South by Southwest?' And they said, 'Are you kidding me? These things are planned

months and years in advance'." He continued: "I said, 'What the hell, I tried.' And this morning I woke up and there was a text and it said, 'Ron. It's happening.'" The audience responded with a chorus of deafening cheers. Moritz then turned contemplative as he paid homage to his late star.

"We obviously lost a dear friend, brother, comrade while we were making this movie. He was the best guy I met in my world, in my life. We were determined to honor his legacy and our love for him forever," he said.

The film's director James Wan, a Malaysian-Australian filmmaker who cut his teeth on the "Saw" franchise, appeared exhausted but relieved to have finally reached the finish line with what had to be the most challenging project of his career: 140 minutes of head-spinning action set pieces, muscle flexing, machine gun fire -- and a quintet of cars flying out of an airplane.

Source: Hollywood Reporter

Oriental Painting Exhibition opens today at Zainul Gallery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Oriental Painting Study Group (OPSG) in association with The Daily Star has organised a weeklong (March 17-23) 5th "Oriental Painting Exhibition" at Zainul Gallery-1 and 2, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka.

Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor of University of Dhaka, will inaugurate the exhibition at 4pm today (March 17). Cultural Affairs Secretary Dr. Ranjit Kumar Biswas, ndc and Managing Director of Mahin Group Abdullah Al Mahmud will attend as special guests. Professor Syed Abul Barq Alvi, Dean (acting), Faculty of Fine Art of University of Dhaka, will preside over the programme.

OPSG conducted a weeklong wash painting workshop last year. The guests will hand over certificates among the participants of the workshop at the inaugural ceremony. The exhibition is featuring artworks by 47 contemporary oriental painters including the participants and trainers of the workshop.

The artworks being displayed at the exhibition have conspicuous connotations and reverberation of the opulent heritage and trend of oriental painting style. The purpose of holding this exhibition is to inspire both artists and art connoisseurs in searching their cultural roots and to nurture their very own art heritage. OPSG aims to open up a new horizon of Oriental Painting in Bangladesh.

An Associate Professor of the Department of Oriental Art of DU Dr. Malay Bala, also the convener of OPSG, is the curator of the exhibition that will remain open from 11 am to 8pm daily till March 23.

CSDC, Citizen Group and Metroline have sponsored the exhibition.



"Humility is a necessary trait for actors" ...Nova Firoz

A CORRESPONDENT

In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, Nova Firoz, shared little tidbits about her life under the spotlight. Being an actress, anchor and a singer, she has touched the hearts of many. But to be in this position it is not an easy job, she says:

A star like everyone else must know the meaning of true humility. Actors should know how to project their simplicity through their work, behaviour and their presence.

This is not the only thing that an actor should keep in mind. One more

factor is that fame should never affect their work. There have been a lot of cases where people whose success has gone to their head, begin to lack dedication to their professions. "Commitment" is an important word, sometimes forgotten by many actors.

Being in the spotlight is something that we cannot achieve overnight. We have to earn it through our dedication and hard work. And an actor should always know that it is their fans that have brought them to their present position. The "role" played in a drama, movie or series by an actor or actress, brings our fans closer to us. So fans are never bothersome for an artiste: as long as the artiste has enough humility to acknowledge them.

