

Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Wings of Imagination
 Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi
 Date: 5-15 June
 Time: Monday-Thursday 3-9pm
 Friday and Saturday 9-12am and 5-8pm



Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Remixing Illusion
 Venue: Gallery Cosmos-2
 Date: June 1-15
 Time: 11am-7pm



Group Art Exhibition
 Jago Nari Jaago Bonhishikha
 Organiser: Studio 48
 Venue: Eric's Bistro, Dhanmondi-5
 Date: May 23-June 23
 Time: 10am-9pm



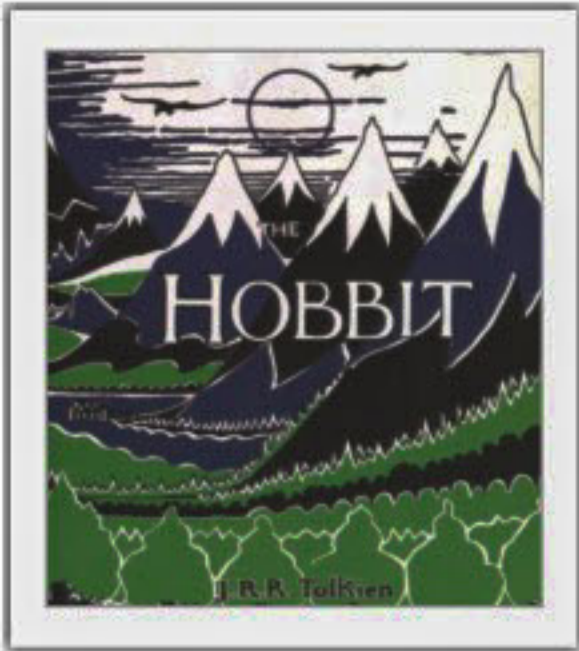
Art Exhibition
 Celebrated Violence-4: Fuzzy Fear
 Venue: Kala Kendra, Mohammadpur, Dhaka
 Date: May 28-June 20
 Time: 5-9 pm



Solo Exhibition
 River Stories
 Artist: Vinita Karim
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge
 Date: May 16-June 6
 Time: 12-8pm



NEWS bytes



First edition "The Hobbit" fetches £137,000

A first edition of JRR Tolkien's 1937 novel "The Hobbit", with an inscription in Elvish written by the author, had sold at auction in London for £137,000.

The sale smashes the previous record for a sale of "The Hobbit", set in 2008 when a first edition sold for £60,000.

Tolkien gave the book to Katherine 'Kitty' Kilbride, one of his students at Leeds University in the 1920s.

The Elvish verse is an extract from Tolkien's "The Lost Road", part of his 12-volume History of Middle-earth, and follows a personal dedication from the author.

"The Hobbit" introduced the character of Bilbo Baggins and the 'one ring' that would feature again in his "Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

Sotheby's had expected the first edition to fetch up to £70,000 at Thursday's auction of children's books and illustrated works.

Source: BBC

Serenity of riverine beauty

Vinita Karim's "River Stories" at Bengal Art Lounge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Art Lounge has organised a solo exhibition titled "River Stories", showcasing outstanding paintings and painted objects by Vinita Karim, a painter of Indian origin and born in Burma (now Myanmar). Pankaj Saran, High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, and eminent artist Rafiqun Nabi jointly inaugurated the exhibition on May 16.

Vinita Karim lived in a number of countries prior to settling in Bangladesh. Deeply influ-

enced by her lifelong travels, her painting style boasts clear influences from the visual traditions of the Arab peninsula and the Far-East. But "River Stories" is deeply rooted in Bangladesh: it plunges the viewer into the magic of its riverine delta and recalls the glory of its fabled cities. The painter's original use of local materials such as muslin, which she directly stitches onto the canvas, completes the special experience in this exhibition.

Conceived as an ode to Bengal and its countless rivers,

this exhibition features a selection of the recent works by the acclaimed painter. The pictorial technique on display is characterised by vivid colours and a distinctive rendition of forms and shapes which subtly departs from the language of reality. Vinita Karim's paintings give access to a world of uniqueness; a utopia best defined by serenity and beauty.

Dense, colourful layers of what can be imagined as human habitations are aligned along immense lines in various shades of blue. These majestic rives

seem to dictate the entire geometry on the canvas. Above, hanging in crimson and golden skies, the image of crescent moons or glowing suns enhance the impression of beauty. The reference to the affluent past of Bengal instantly comes to mind evoking nostalgia. The artist has composed a harmonising contrariety through assorted ingredients including, acrylic, oil, muslin, ordinary fabric, gold leaf and copper leaf.

The exhibition, which is open from 12pm-8pm daily, ends today.



Minu Haque's memorable Tripura visit
 Pallavi artistes stage Shapmochon at three venues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent dancer-choreographer and president of Bangladesh Nritya Shilpi Sangstha, Minu Haque recently visited Tripura, India. Marking 154th birth anniversary celebration programme of Rabindranath Tagore, 18 artistes including Minu Haque, director of the troupe Pallavi Dance Center, was invited by Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC), Dhaka and Government of Tripura, India to tour Tripura between May 10 and 15. Dancers of Pallavi staged Tagore dance-drama "Shapmochon" at three venues -- Agartala, Udaypur and Amorpur of the state, earning accolades from the Tagore enthusiasts there.

"Cultural activity has remarkably increased in Agartala



PHOTO: STAR

over the decades. People seemed to be addicted with creative ventures, dance, theatre, art and cultural activities. They are in close contact with the practice and celebration of Tagore's works. The audience responded immensely all after three shows at venues -- Rabindra Bhaban, Agartala (May 11), Udaypur (May 12) and Amorpur (May 13)," said Minu Haque.

"While I was on my way back from Udaypur staging our second show there, I stopped at Bishramganj -- where I had spent time during the Liberation War of 1971. I engaged myself as a nurse at Bangladesh Hospital that would exclusively treat wounded Freedom Fighters. It was an emotional moment for me," recalled the artiste.

"Jaago Nari Jaago Bonhishikha" at Eric's Bistro



Artworks on display at the café.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group art exhibition titled "Jaago Nari Jaago Bonhishikha" by Studio 48 (an artists' collective) is currently on at Eric's Bistro Café Gallery in the capital's Dhanmondi. Eminent artist Hamiduzzaman Khan inaugurated the exhibit as chief guest on May 23.

The exhibition -- featuring 24 paintings -- is themed on the empowerment of women, and is a clarion call for women to raise their voices against oppression and injustice.

Artworks by a group of artists including Rashid Amin, Nasima Khanom Queenie, Azmeer Hossain, AH Dhali, Monjur Rashid and Fahmida Enam Kakoli are on display at the exhibit.

The artworks and the relaxed ambiance of the café are a popular draw. The exhibit will run every day from 11am-9pm till August 23.

IT'S TRUE!



Sridevi, an iconic figure of Bollywood of the 90s, left the industry in 1997 with "Judaai", and returned in 2012 after 15 years with "English Vinglish", following which, she has been having a memorable year. This year, Sridevi received seven nominations for English Vinglish (one win), NDTV Entertainer of the Year, a Filmfare Special Award and the Padma Shri -- India's third highest civilian honour.

Alia Bhatt turns TV curator

With back-to-back hits, actress Ali Bhatt has made a mark in Bollywood quite early on in her career. Now, she is set to don the hat of a curator for an upcoming English TV channel.

Alia has been officially roped in for the job that requires her knowledge as a representative of India's youth. She will be on the panel of the channel's think tank. As part of her job, she will brainstorm on marketing plans, what shows or movies should be picked up, and the overall content of the channel to make sure that the programming is youth-centric, reports Hindustan Times

One of the major reasons why the channel has roped the 22-year-old actor in is because of her appeal among the youth.

Source: Hindustan Times

TV WATCH

"Saheb Babu'r Boithok-khana" on ATN Bangla

A CORRESPONDENT

New TV serial "Saheb Babu'r Boithok-khana" will go on air at 8pm tonight on ATN Bangla. Written By Shahjahan Sourav and directed by Zahidul Islam, it casts Zahid Hasan, Romana, Azizul Hakim, Sumona Soma, Aatur Rahman and Siddiquir Rahman, among others.

The plot surrounds two friends, Saheb and Babu, from the fictional village Fulchhota. One of them is a politician and the other runs a bookstore. They start a theatre troupe in the village together, but it brings along rifts in their friendship. When a third person gets killed mysteriously amid the conflicts, things take a turn southwards.



Zahid Hasan plays Babu in the serial.

Macbeth at National Theatre Hall tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Padatik Natya Sangsad's much-praised production "Macbeth" will see its 29th staging tomorrow at the National Theatre Hall of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy tomorrow. Syed Shamsul Haq has adapted the Shakespeare classic, which is directed by Sudip Chakraborty. Sakhawat Hossain Shimul, Shamsi Ara Sayeka and Hamidur Rahman Pappu, among others, are in the cast, while the costume has been designed by Wahida Mollik Jolly, music by Shishir Rahman and lights by Atikul Islam.



A scene from the play.



Wilde relieved with **TRON 3** shelving

Most actors would be upset if one of their big upcoming blockbusters were to be abruptly cancelled, but most actors aren't Olivia Wilde. Since it was announced late last month that Disney was cancelling their plans for "Tron 3", Olivia Wilde has been inundated with questions about it on Twitter - so this week she finally responded. Deciding to simply look on the bright side of things, she offers that not making the sci-fi blockbuster means that she won't have to put herself through any kind of the physical torture necessary to accomplish the job. She said "Tron fans! Don't trip. Now I don't have to live on seaweed juice and tofu dust for 6

months to fit into a rubber suit." Had the Joseph Kosinski-directed sequel moved forward, it would have offered a very interesting opportunity for Olivia Wilde performance-wise -- namely because her existence would have squarely been at the center of the plot. While she was born a programme, the ending of "Tron Legacy" sees her travel with Sam Flynn (Garrett Hedlund) into the real world. It was confirmed a few weeks ago by the actress that the movie's story was going to further explore this very special situation and the consequences that stemmed from it.

Source: CinemaBlend