

Humanising harsh reality through art

Harun-ar-Rashid Tutul's Colliding Collages at AFD



Distinguished guests visit the exhibition after inauguration.

ZAHANGIR ALAM

Entering into La Galerie of Alliance Française de Dhaka, art lovers can't but gaze in wonder at paintings by Harun-ar-Rashid Tutul, an Assistant Professor of the Department of Graphic Design of the Faculty of Fine Art (FFA), University of Dhaka. The artist's first solo exhibition titled "Colliding Collages" is a succinct attempt to trace the roots of man-made crises and their ramifications in modern lives. He delineates the ruthless waves of time on large acrylic canvases. The presence of precise space, post-modern and contrasting forms, compositional novelty, reasonable colours and innovative graphical representation impart a touch of uniqueness to the current exhibition.

Such a large-scale exhibition on contemporary yet crucial themes is a gift for art connoisseurs. Tutul's paintings tell the tales of greedy people's attempt to over exploit nature, as well as unplanned urbanisation, environmental degradation, contemporary socio-political scenario, the decay of social norms and values and unbearable sufferings of the helpless masses.

Tutul is an avid patriot. He nurtures the conscience of Liberation War, history and heritage in

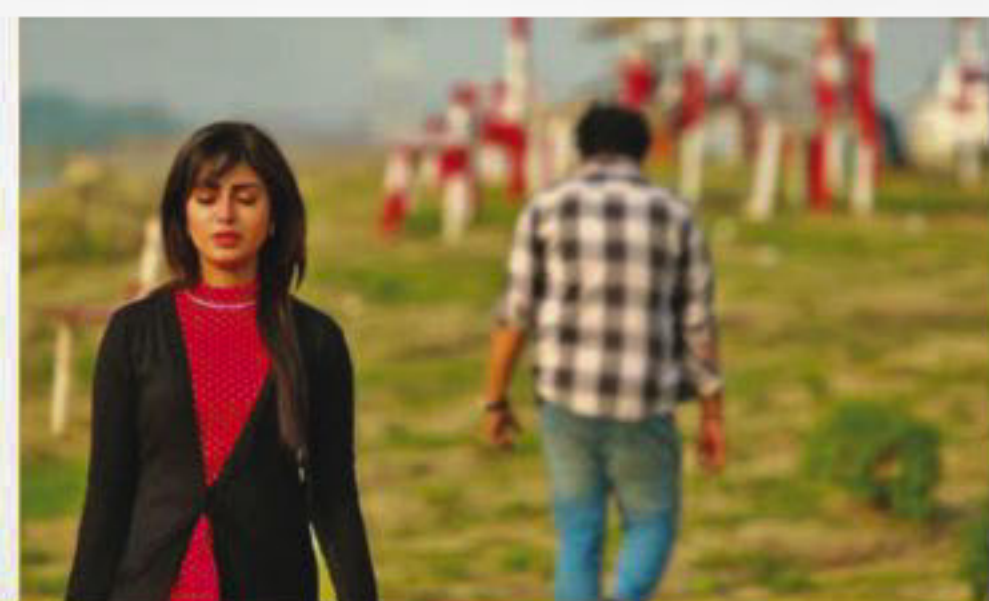
his heart. "The 14th December" is a painting within painting by the artist. He poetically portrays the brutal killings of our martyred intellectuals.

The artist's other work "March to Liberty" also glorifies our War of Independence. "Brain-Drain" is a surrealistic work by Tutul. He also satirically depicts the so-called development causing harm to many things in a piece titled "Piercing Development" where he has used his own physique. "Exploding City", "Trail of Destruction", "Time and Reality", "Metro-politine City", "Ominous Omen" are among his other works displayed at the gallery.

Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice-Chancellor of University of Dhaka, inaugurated the exhibition on July 27 while national project manager of CDMP Mohammad Abdul Quayyum attended as special guest. Professor Nisar Hossain, Dean of FFA of Dhaka University, noted artist Professor Mohammad Eunus and artist-art critic Mostafa Zaman Mithu were present as guests of honour.

The art show is open from 3pm to 9pm (Monday-Thursday) and 9am to 12pm plus 5pm to 8pm (Fridays and Saturdays) till August 5.

Sumon-Elita's song in "Bhinno Rokom Prem"



A CORRESPONDENT

"Tomar Jonno", a tremendously popular duet song by Sumon and Elita will now be used as the title track of single episode television play "Bhinno Rokom Prem". The song, a Bangla translation of John Denver's "Annie's Song", released in 2005 as part of the album "Megher Deshe" and is still popular among the youth.

Director of the play Asif Iqbal Jewel said, "I love the song and it aptly fits the mood of my play. I'm using the full track as the title song of my play." "Bhinno Rokom Prem", casting Nayeem and Shokh in the lead roles, will air on a satellite channel during upcoming Eid.

Isha Koppikar making a comeback



Isha Koppikar, who sizzled on screen with some sultry songs and controversial films along, was missing from Bollywood for four years, but is now all set to make a comeback with "Assi Nabbe Pure Sau".

The first look of the film -- also starring Divyendu Sharma, was revealed to the media recently. Isha, asked about the press conference about the reason for choosing this as her comeback film, said: "If I have chosen a film after four years, then it is this one, because it is a fantastic script."

About the director and script, she further said: "The script for this film is of today, it is youth-centric and a hardcore drama. It rang a bell for me. There was a lot to perform and it had everything. There is revenge, romance and story spanning across five decades."

Isha's last notable venture in Bollywood was "Shabri", produced by Ram Gopal Varma, which released in 2011.

Source: IANS

Chhau workshop concludes with performance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nrityajog, the Bangladesh Chapter of World Dance Alliance, organised a weeklong (July 22-28) Chhau and contemporary dance workshop in cooperation with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), facilitated by Delhi-based dancer Santosh Nair. A dance recital was held at the end of the workshop on July 28 at the Music and Dance Centre auditorium of BSA, where the 65 participants from across the country and Santosh Nair himself performed.

formed.

Thespian Ramendu Majumdar, Director General of BSA Liaquat Ali Lucky, Santosh Nair, noted Bangladeshi dancers Amanul Haque, Sharmila Banerjee and Majfuzur Rahman, General Secretary of Bangladesh Nritya Shilpi Sangstha were present at the show.

Santosh Nair initially directed a few demonstrative performances where the participating dancers took part. He later performed "Nataraj", the God of dance, following Chhau dance style. The guru also

performed another piece called "Yodha" that focused on the war dance of Eastern India. Workshop participants performed simultaneously with Santosh Nair. Their weeklong learning was conspicuously visible in their performances. The demonstration of Chhau dance set on a Bangla song "Ami Takdm Takdm Bajai Bangladesh-er Dhol" was commendable. Prior to the performances, organisers, screened a documentary titled "The Journey", shedding light on the life and works of Santosh Nair.



The participants demonstrate a Chhau choreography with Santosh Nair.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSEHD

Aminur Rahman wins poetry award

Poet Aminur Rahman from Bangladesh has been awarded 'Heaven Horse Award' by the Mongolian Academy of Culture and Poetry in Mongolia for his contribution and development to world literature, says a press release.

The award was presented to him by B Tulga, Deputy Minister Education and Science of Mongolian government at his ministry secretariat, Ulan Bator earlier this month. Famous Mongolian poet and the president of the academy G Mend-Ooyo was also present on the occasion.

Aminur Rahman also attended the

'Bengali-Mongolian Poetry Reading' session at National History Museum, Ulan Bator after the award giving session, where he presented a paper on "A new wave of contemporary Bangla poetry". He also read his poems followed by translations in Mongolian language by poet G Mend-Ooyo.

In 2006 Aminur Rahman's poetry book "Heart Shore" was translated in Mongolian language, and he also received Chenggis Khan Gold Medal instituted by Chenggis Khan University.



Sixteen lucky ones find Lux Gold Locket



In its latest campaign, beauty soap brand Lux has brought an opportunity for consumers to find fragrant gold lockets with Lux. Up till Monday (July 27), some 16 people from Dhaka Division were handed Lux's fragrant Gold Locket, says a press release.

The 16 people who have found the gold lockets were Mamun, Shaquie, Shahidul

Parvez, Tariquul Islam, Priyanka, Shafiqul Islam, Fahmida, Sultan Ahmed, Abu Bakr, Joyanal Abedin, Manik, Mehedi Hasan, Amirul, Mohammed Asaduzzaman, Arafat and Aminul Islam.

Previously, 10 people from Chittagong and one person from Dhaka had found Gold Lockets with Lux.

IT'S TRUE!

Disneyland was built in the early 1950's. Walt Disney put a secret apartment on the second floor of the fire department on Main Street so he could watch the guests in the park from a hidden vantage point, like Zeus watching the mortals from Mount Olympus. After his death, the company decided to put a light in the window in Disney's memory.



"Jalaler Golpo" bags big awards at Avanca

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abu Shahed Emon's directorial debut film "Jalaler Golpo" bagged two prestigious awards in the 19th Avanca International Film Festival in Portugal. The film, produced by Impress Telefilm, received the awards in best film and best actor (to Mosharraf Karim) in the 19th edition of the festival, held from July 20-26.

As many as 118 films from 2200 registered films from 121 countries were selected for competing in the various categories of the festival.

Among the participating films, four feature films from Bangladesh, USA, Spain and Czech Republic were awarded. "Be-reave" from USA, "The Distance" from Spain and "After the War, Before the War"

from Czech Republic received Special Mention awards by the jury board. Irina Demick, an actress from "After the War, Before the War" was awarded the best actress.

Avanca International Film Festival has regularly been organised by the association of the Avanca Cine Club of Portugal, Estarreja Municipality and Government of Portugal for the last 19 years.

Besides receiving the Asian Cinema Fund in 19th Busan Film Festival in 2014, "Jalaler Golpo" had also enjoyed its world premiere in the main competitive category 'New Current' of the festival. In addition, the film was also screened as the only Bangladeshi film at the International Film Festival of India 2014 (IFFI) in Goa, India.

"I Am Kalam" inspires future generations

A tribute to the late Indian President

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA,
New Delhi

There are several areas where late Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam left his indelible mark, including India's space and missile programmes and development of common people. A little-less known fact is that he had inspired a national award-winning feature film, too.



Nila Madhab Panda made his debut into cinema with critically acclaimed "I Am Kalam" in 2010, a film which was inspired by Kalam's humble beginnings as a newspaper boy in his home town Rameshwaram, in southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu and his struggle against all odds.

Panda said that while making a film on a child labourer who dreams of becoming big, he was looking for a person who could inspire the child, and zeroed in on Kalam who spared no opportunity in real life to motivate children to follow their dreams.

"I Am Kalam" is not about a personality or even a film," says the director, adding "It is a metaphor for a new India where people dare to dream and go on to achieve it."

The protagonist of "I am Kalam" was Chhotu, a 10-year-old labourer from Rajasthan, who wanted to become someone big after he heard one of Kalam's speeches on TV. Chhotu was inspired so much by Kalam that he changed his name to Kalam.

"I was looking for a superhero-like character, who could inspire this kid. So, my first question was -- who could be this superhero of India -- a cricketer or Bollywood hero? But they entertain us more than they inspire us. Also, the basic quality of any hero is that he is selfless. So, could it be Gandhi or Nehru? Then again, we had not seen them or heard them live. At the present time, I saw no one better than APJ Abdul Kalam to take up that role of a person who could inspire not just a child,

but generations to come," Panda told The Times of India.

Asked what APJ Abdul Kalam's reaction was after watching a film named after him, Panda recalled "I had told him that the film was not on his life but on the message he spreads. He was someone who believed in reaching out to people."

Apart from the film, Nila was himself inspired by the towering personality of the scientist-turned-political figure. "His life is an example that anybody can achieve anything. About 70 percent of India is like that. They live in their humble abodes and are dreaming to achieve something big. Kalam's words and deeds encouraged us all," he says.

"I have always been very happy with my career" ...Richi

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

In her career span, seasoned actress Richi Solaiman has entertained the audience with her natural acting skills. She is now busy with TV projects, as several of her plays are now being aired on different TV channels. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, the acclaimed artiste spoke about her busy shooting schedule and other subjects.



PHOTO: STAR

What, according to you, is the biggest hindrance in making quality TV plays?

Richi: Low budget has attributed to the fall in quality. I think makers should start with bigger budgets to ensure good work. You've played different roles in your long acting career. What do you look for in a script?

Richi: As much work as I want to do, it depends on a strong plot. At the same time, I try to give importance to demand of the audience.

Tell us a little about your new series, now airing on different TV channels? Richi: "Dahan" is going on ATN Bangla, "Palta Hawa" on Bangladesh and "Comedy and Colony" on Rtv.

Besides acting, you have showed your skill in production? Richi: I've forayed into TV production with my production house Nilanjana. One of our latest works is the 26-episode of drama serial "Jokhon Kokhono", directed by Rahmatullah Tuhin. The viewers will soon see the new play on a TV channel.

Tell us a little about your family life ...

Richi: I'm very happy in my family life with my husband and child. My husband is serving at the New York Police Department in the US, and will be visiting this September. Some online portals recently published baseless, fabricated news that I was divorced. My family had to face some harassment due to the news, which really hurt me.

Do you have any regrets in your career?

Richi: I have always been very happy with my career. Otherwise, I don't think I could have created such good productions.

Celebrating Friendship WITH MUSIC

ACOUSTICA EPISODE 01

at The Daily Star Centre

STAR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Friendship is a bond that cannot be defined or circumscribed. Friendship can only be celebrated, and maybe that's why Friendship Day is celebrated across the world every year. The first Sunday of August is not far off, and Star Arts & Entertainment brings you the opportunity to share some great moments with your friends by listening in to some lovely live music.

On August 2, four immensely talented musicians from Gaanshala -- Sovvota, Leemon, Moon and Moitree -- will perform



Leemon



Moon

at "Acoustica Episode 01: Ek Nirjhor'er Gaan" at the AS Mahmud Seminar Hall of The Daily Star Centre, from 6pm. No big booming sounds, no flashy lights; just an up-close and personal "unplugged" musical experience. Bring your friends along for an evening of fresh music and a hearty adaa. Seating is limited (and first-come first-serve), so send an email to culturearts@gmail.com with your name and contact information and we will keep some seats for you and your friends.

GaanBangla TV and ABC Radio are partners of the event.



Sovvota



Moitree

Ant-Man arrives in Dhaka



A CORRESPONDENT

The Marvel Cinematic Universe has been on a roll in the last few years, bringing the world's favourite comic book heroes to the big, 3D screens. The latest in that line is Scott Lang, a.k.a Ant-Man, the big film about the tiny superhero that landed in theatres worldwide two weeks ago. Thankfully, the Dhaka audience does not have to wait too long to see Phil Rudd's heroics in a cinematic environment, as the film releases today at the Star Cineplex. The premiere of "Ant-Man" was held yesterday at the Star Zone, marking the release.

Ant-Man is the story of well-meaning thief Scott Lang becoming a superhero -- able to shrink to the size of an insect -- and guided by scientist Hank Pym (played by Michael Douglas), attempts to retrieve the Yellowjacket, a shrinking suit made by his former protégé Darren Cross (Corey Stoll). Directed by Peyton Reed and also starring Evangeline Lilly, Michael Peña, and a cameo appearance from Anthony Mackie as Marvel superhero Falcon, the film has received positive reviews worldwide, and has been commercially successful too.

ANT-MAN Quiz Contest

The Daily Star | STAR CINEPLEX

10 Winners Everyday! 2 Premium Tickets For Each Winner



Ant-Man is a 2015 American superhero film based on the Marvel Comics characters of the same name: Scott Lang and Hank Pym. Produced by Marvel Studios and distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures, it is the twelfth installment of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). The film was directed by Peyton Reed. The Daily Star together with Star Cineplex will host a quiz for the movie lovers in the Arts & Entertainment Setion. So keep your eyes on this Newspaper.