

RASHID CHOWDHURY

A PIONEERING TAPESTRY ARTIST



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today marks the 84th birth anniversary of artist Rashid Chowdhury. The visionary artist's significant contributions in the development of art movements and institutions of art education in this county are immense. He played a pioneer role in the development of art education and practice in Chittagong. Not only had he established the department of fine art in University of Chittagong but also Charukala College (Govt. Art College) in Chittagong. He was a dynamic, innovative and versatile scholar.

Rashid was the pioneer of tapestry in this country and definitely the finest artist of this particular genre till date. He successfully introduced tapestry in various forms. His works are unparalleled in their subjects and style. Blending of our tradition with modern western art is the main characteristics of his works.

About the iconic artist, sculptor cum painter Syed Abdullah Khalid said, "His forte was to search for fresh themes and present them with a novel approach. The artist established his uniqueness -- particularly in terms of design and colour composition. The thickness of colours, geometric compositions and aestheticism distinguish his works. This style helped him to hold his position at the forefront of the Bangladeshi art scenario."

Born in the village of Haroa, under Faridpur district, Rashid completed his five-year course in fine arts from the Dacca Art College (now Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka) in 1954 and attended a teachers' training certificate course at Asutosh Museum of the Calcutta University. He did his post-graduate studies under a Spanish government scholarship, and studied sculpture at the Central Escuela des Bellias Artes de San

Fernando in Madrid from 1956 to '57. He also studied sculpture, fresco and tapestry at the Academy of Jullian and Beaux Arts in Paris from 1960 to '64.

In his artworks, the artist used azure, white, black, crimson, green, brown and more. He was deeply inspired by varied organic forms, like vegetation, flowers and plants. Rashid made a great attempt to present synchronisation of colours in his works. He used colours with vivid splendour to give a distinct message through his works, which for many years impressed art aficionados both at home and abroad.

Rashid Chowdhury accomplished knowledge of the indigenous origin and technical details of Tapestry at Academie de Juliette in Paris. His teacher was Jean Lursate, who is considered the father of modern tapestry. After returning from France in 1964 he had fully engaged in producing tapestry at his own factory and joined as a part time teacher in the University of Engineering.

Rashid received the first prize for fresco painting in Beaux Arts in Paris and first prize in RCD Biennale in Tehran. He also received Ekushey Padak and the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Award.

The artist died in 1986.



WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Existence
Artist: Md. Sohel Rana Pranon
Venue: Gallery Shilpangan
Date: April 01-15
Time: 12-8pm

Aroho Flute Evening
Artist: Murtuza Kabir Murad & Students
Venue: Chhayanaout Sanskriti Bhaban
Date: April 1
Time: 6:30pm

Shah Abdul Karim Birth Centenary Fest-Noakhali
Venue: Shaheed Minar Chattar, Chaumuhani, Noakhali
Date: April 1-2
Time: 5pm

7th National Conference
Organiser: Bangladesh Gram Theatre
Venue: Open Premises, BSA
Date: April 1-2
Time: 4pm Onwards

Charunidam TV Play Award 2016
Venue: Shaikat Osman Memorial Auditorium, Central Public Library
Date: April 1
Time: 6pm

Classical Vocal Music
By Saraj-Pancham School
Venue: IGCC Auditorium, Gulshan-1
Date: April 2
Time: 6:30pm

NEWS bytes

Jonah Hill's directorial debut

Jonah Hill will step behind the camera to direct coming-of-age film "Mid '90s" based on the script he penned. Plot details are vague, but sources say the film follows a young boy coming up in Los Angeles in the mid-1990s learning life lessons with his skateboarding crew of friends. Hill will not be acting in the film, and a production start date is still being worked out.

The project marks another major step in Hill's career; he's gone from young comedian to talented dramatic actor, having received Oscar nominations for his performances in "The Wolf of Wall Street" and "Moneyball".

Source: **Variety**



FIRST LOVE LETTER

"He never told me up front that he loved me"

... NAWSHABA

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed, known to fans by her middle name, is one of the most familiar faces on the small screen. In recent years, she has expanded her professional ambit, venturing into films as well. In a recent chit-chat with The Daily Star, the actress spoke about her first love letter.

"When I was in eighth grade, I received my first love letter from a boy at a coaching centre where I also took classes. It was a rather intense feeling. He kept the letter in my diary. When I found the letter, it was a little hard to believe at first, that my classmate, a mere teenager, had written such an emotional love letter to me."

"I never responded to the letter. Firstly, my family is very conservative. Secondly, I used to be shy, and I had no intention to have an affair at that age. I was very serious about my studies.

"Afterwards, the boy did a weird thing. One day he suddenly came to our



Mohammadpur house and met my father. He tried to say something to my father but finally refrained from it. I was really frightened, but was also amazed by his courage."

"Although I did not respond to his letter, he sent me flowers and audio albums on my birthday. Once I got admitted to the hospital when I was a tenth grader. He came to visit me there and gifted me my favourite music.

"After a long time, just before my marriage, he wanted to meet me. I met him along with my fiancé; he kept silent about our past history.

"Though the boy wrote the first love letter to me, he never told me up front that he loved me. He would always try to express himself otherwise."

"I wanted to go to one of my favourite countries on a scholarship, but it did not happen. However, the boy went to the country on a scholarship. There was no communication between us for a long time. When I first got a Facebook account, he communicated with me through Facebook and asked if I remembered who he was. Since then there was no communication between us. I still enjoy a good laugh when I recall my first love letter."

Loko Natyadal Banani to hold charity show of "Kanjus"



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe Loko Natyadal Banani will stage their much-acclaimed production "Kanjus" today at 7pm at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The play will be staged as part of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation's initiative to raise money for the treatment of ailing theatre personality Amir Hossain Shuruj.

Amir Hossain Shuruj is a prominent theatre name and cultural personality in Sirajganj.

"Kanjus" has been translated by Tariq Anam Khan, while Kamrun Nur Chowdhury has directed it.

FINDING DORY

images give glimpses of Dory's new friends



Directors Andrew Stanton and Angus MacLane are starting to roll out a few new teasers for their upcoming animated film "Finding Dory". Those teasers include all-new images that reveal the animated animal cast of the "Finding Nemo" sequel. However, this time around it won't just be a few fish in the sea since Dory will be joined by an expanded oceanic cast.

Returning characters include Dory (Ellen DeGeneres), Marlin and his son Nemo (voiced by the returning Albert Brooks and newcomer Hayden Rolence), Bob Peterson as Mr. Ray, and Stanton himself as Crush the super-chill sea turtle. New additions include Dory's fish parents, Charlie and Jenny (voiced by Eugene Levy and Diane Keaton); a beluga whale named Bailey (Ty Burrell); a whale shark called Destiny (Kaitlin Olson); and the curmudgeonly octopus Hank (Ed O'Neill). Two sea lions, Rudder and Fluke, will voiced by Dominic West and Idris Elba respectively.

Source: **Collider**

"Would love to do a sports biopic"

... Neha Dhupia

In a career spanning more than a decade, Neha Dhupia has featured in films ranging from romance to comedy, but the actress said that she would now love to star in a sports biopic.

The actress, who is a well-known fitness enthusiast, feels it would be great to portray a true story of an athlete on screen. "I would love to do a sports biopic. I love sports and I think it would be amazing to be a part of a true story and play an athlete. I am ready for something like this," Neha told PTI.

The 35-year-old actress rose to fame with her bold role in "Julie", before turning to offbeat cinema with critically acclaimed films like "Ek Chalis Ki Last Local" and "Phass Gaye Rey Obama".

Neha will next be seen in comedy "Santa Banta Pvt Ltd", also starring Boman Irani, Vijay Raaz, Vir Das, Johnny Lever, Lisa Haydon, Ram Kapoor and Vrajesh Hirjee.

Having acted in blockbuster comedies like "Singh is Kinng", "Garam Masala" and "Kyaa Kool Hai Hum", Neha said that she finds the genre easy. "Comedy is easy. You have to react to what others are saying and it is all about the timing, the dialogue delivery. In comedy, an actor needs to be well aware of his or her part. It might be easy to do once you get it but comedy is a serious business," she said.

About her upcoming film, Neha said "It was such a fantastic experience shooting for the film. What I realised was, everybody, from Johnny sir, to Vijay, Boman and Vir belong to different school of comedy. They are all funny but not in the same way. It was a learning experience working with the entire team," she said.

Directed by Akashdeep Sabir, "Santa Banta Pvt Ltd" is scheduled to release on April 22.

Source: **PTI**

