

WHAT'S ON

Book Fair
Chaitra Book Festival
Venue: Nalinikanta Bhattacharya Auditorium, National Museum
Date: April 1-12
Time: 11am-8pm



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



Solo Art Exhibition
Three Shadows of Art
Artist: Md. Rashed Alam
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Date: April 1-15
Time: 3pm-9pm



An Evening of Folk Songs
Organiser: Indra Gandhi Cultural Centre
Artist: Anima Mukti Gomes
Venue: IGCC, Gulshan-1
Date: April 8; Time: 6:30pm



Concert
EMK Happy Hour
Performer: Ghaashphoring Choir
Venue: EMK Center
Date: April 9
Time: 7pm



NEWS bytes

Leto to star in "The Outsider"

Jared Leto has become famously picky when it comes to choosing acting roles over the past few years, especially since his band, 30 Seconds to Mars, has taken off. But now that he has an Oscar under his belt for "Dallas Buyers Club", he's no doubt in high demand, and the actor has chosen what will be his first acting project since inhabiting The Joker for the upcoming "Suicide Squad". It was announced that Leto will lead the action thriller "The Outsider", which takes place in post-World War II Japan and follows an imprisoned American soldier who is released with the help of his



Yakuza cellmate, only to find himself working to repay his debt in the dangerous criminal underworld. Danish filmmaker Martin Zandvliet is set to direct "The Outsider", marking his English-language debut. This marks only Leto's second role since "Dallas Buyers Club", although he flirted with the idea of joining the star-studded ensemble for the bestseller adaptation "The Girl on the Train", which has Emily Blunt starring and Luke Evans filling the role that Leto was eyeing.

Source: Collider



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

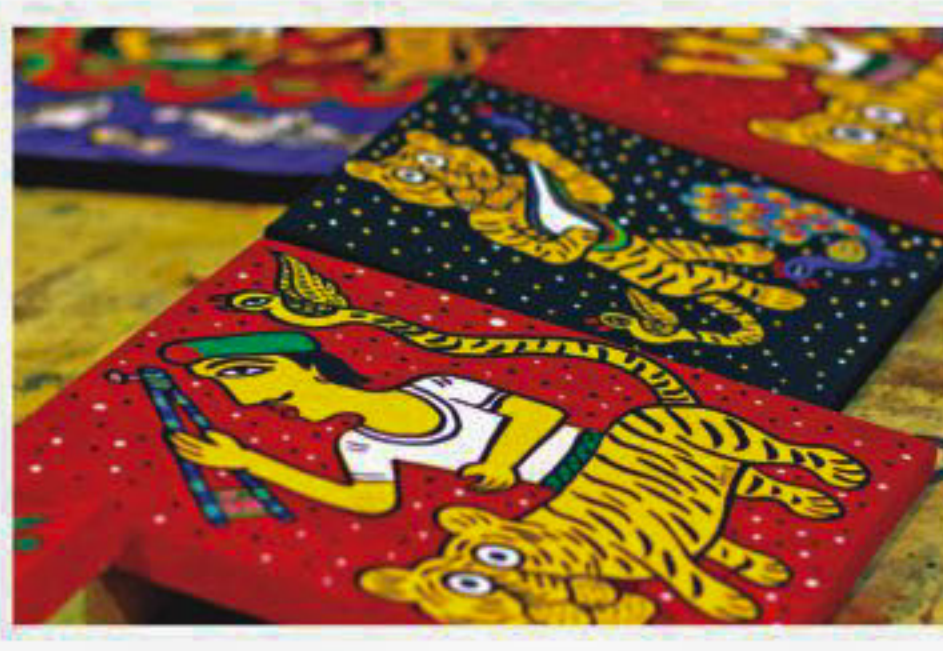
CHARUKALA GEARS UP FOR PAHELA BOISHAKH

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Pahela Boishakh, the first day of the Bangla New Year and the country's key secular celebration is at the door. Preparations are on at the Faculty of Fine Art (FFA), University of Dhaka (DU) for hailing the Bangla New Year 1423. Eminent artists Rafiqun Nabi, Monirul Islam and Nisar Hossain, the Dean of FFA, DU, inaugurated the preparation for *Mongolshobhajatra* on March 17. The 17th batch students of FFA are leading the gigantic task to make the event a grand success. FFA aka Charukala buzzes with activity and will continue till Pahela Boishakh. The theme for the year is "Ontor Momo Bikoshito Koro Ontorototo Hey".

The *Mongolshobhajatra* -- decked with vivid, flamboyant masks and life-size replicas of dolls (originally from the collection of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin), Mother and Child (as protest against all forms of violence against women and children), animals (ox and elephant), birds and other folk motifs (boat, sampan and tree) -- brought out by the students and teachers of FFA, DU is one of the biggest attractions of Pahela Boishakh.

The replicas of different shapes and designs take longer to make than the masks. First the frame is made with bamboo; often straw is used to stuff the structure. Paper is then pasted



on the frame; separate parts (wings, tails for example) are attached. The replicas are then painted or coloured papers are used.

Masks, made with paper and papier-mâché, are other attractions. Bright colours are used to finish off the masks. Tigers, owls and more -- the masks are a visual delight.

There is however, the issue of funds. A *Mongolshobhajatra* of this magnitude costs a pretty penny. Having a corporate giant

sponsor this parade would be the easy way out but the IFA students feel that this would make them obligated to the patrons, thus constraining their artistic liberty. The collective sentiment is that the *Mongolshobhajatra* is part of the mass Boishakhi celebration and should not be commercialised.

The way students generate funds for the event is quite inspiring. They sell beautiful paintings (done by the Charukala teachers, students and alumni) and beautiful shora at the IFA premises daily from 11am to 10pm till April 13.

The shoras featuring rural motifs, human and animals faces are sold at a price range from Tk 500-1500 -- a good buy for art enthusiasts. Paintings by the students start from Tk 500 while the highest price range of the artworks by the teachers and renowned painters is 2 lakhs. The subjects are diverse. Besides, country's noted artists will take part in a two-day art camp starting from yesterday. Their works will be on display for sale on Friday (April 8).

Purchasing a work of art from this sale would not only satiate one's aesthetic senses but also support one of the biggest celebrations on Pahela Boishakh -- a carnival for everyone.

This year's *Mongolshobhajatra*, led by Vice Chancellor of DU and sponsored by FFA Dean, teachers and university administration, will start at 9am from FFA premises.

I want to live and die with music --- Ronty Das



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Ronty Das is a very popular singer today. She came under the spotlight after securing the fourth position in "Close Up 1" competition-2006. She talked about music and more in a recent conversation with The Daily Star.

How did you enter the world of music?
Ronty: I have been keen on music since my childhood. My grandma was a good singer and my grandfather played the drums. My sister also learned music. I grew up in a music-oriented family. I became more and more interested in singing and finally I started learning music.

Tell us about your first solo album?
Ronty: "Anmona Mon" released in 2006 under the banner of Sangeeta. Music lovers received the album well, especially a folk song that featured in it.

What do you aspire to when you prepare to release an album?
Ronty: The audiences' choice is my priority because they are all that matters.

Do you playback for films as well?
Ronty: I've done playbacks for at least 60 movies. I love it. Recently, I did playback for "Missed Call", "Shunno" and "Bhalobasa Dotcom". The one in "Shunno" I have sung a duet with Imran.

Are you doing anything ahead of Pohela Boishakh?
Ronty: I have sung a song marking the festival. Its main theme is colour. I have also done a music video of the song, directed by Kishore Das. Besides me, my daughter appeared as a model in the video. I have a plan to release the video on the day of the festival as my daughter was born that day.

Live TV, playback and stage shows -- what is your favourite medium?
Ronty: It's tough question. Honestly, There's a different thrill in all the mediums.

What's your ultimate musical dream?
Ronty: I want to sing songs what will keep me in people's mind forever. I want to live and die with music.

ITI observes World Theatre Day in China

World Theatre Day was observed this year centrally in Guangzhou, China on March 27 at the initiative of Chinese Centre of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) and ITI General Secretariat.

Honorary President of ITI worldwide, Ramendu Majumdar and Bangladesh ITI Vice-President, Professor Abdus Selim joined the celebrations on an invitation from the Chinese ITI, says a press release.

Ramendu Majumdar, along with seven other dignitaries opened the celebrations by playing the traditional Chinese drum.

Internationally acclaimed Russian director, Anatoly Vasiliev read out his World Theatre Day message at the programme.

A day long forum was organised on March 27 on Asian traditional theatre.

Delegates from 17 Asian countries gave presentations on traditional theatre of their respective



countries. Ramendu Majumdar, in his presentation, gave some examples of traditional Bangladeshi theatre and stressed on the need to make theatre a means of earning a living for traditional theatre practitioners.

On March 28, a meeting of the representatives of Asia-Pacific Regional Council of ITI was held. Chinese ITI President, Dr. Ji Gouping; ITI Director General, Tobias Biancone, and Ramendu Majumdar addressed the meeting.



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Proshoon Rahman's critically-acclaimed film "Sutopa'r Thikana" will travel to two international festivals in London and Toronto.

The government grant-winning film will first be screened at London Bengali Film Festival, to be held from April 14 to 16. Then it will travel to International Film Festival

of South Asia, to be held in Toronto from May 19 to 23.

Soon after its release in May 2015 in Dhaka, "Sutopa'r Thikana" embarked on a journey to different parts of Bangladesh.

Last month, the film was commercially released in four cinema halls in Malaysia, where it has been running successfully for six weeks. The DVD of the film will release on the upcoming Mother's

Day. Starring Aparna Ghosh and Shahadat Hossain in the lead, along with Jayanta Chatterjee, Mahmudul Islam Mithu, Khorshed Alam and Saika Ahmed in the cast, the film portrays the condition of women in South Asia.

The film has also travelled to film festivals in five continents last year and bagged a number of awards.

"Sutopa'r Thikana" in London and Toronto

Arabinda Das Gupta exhibits in Sylhet

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

With the title "Grive not, live", a solo exhibition of painter Arabinda Das Gupta is going on at Sylhet Kabi Nazrul Auditorium premises.

A total of 57 paintings, including 11 watercolours are being exhibited at the show. His previous exhibitions, in 1980 and 2002, were in watercolours; and now he is also placing his drawings at the exhibition.

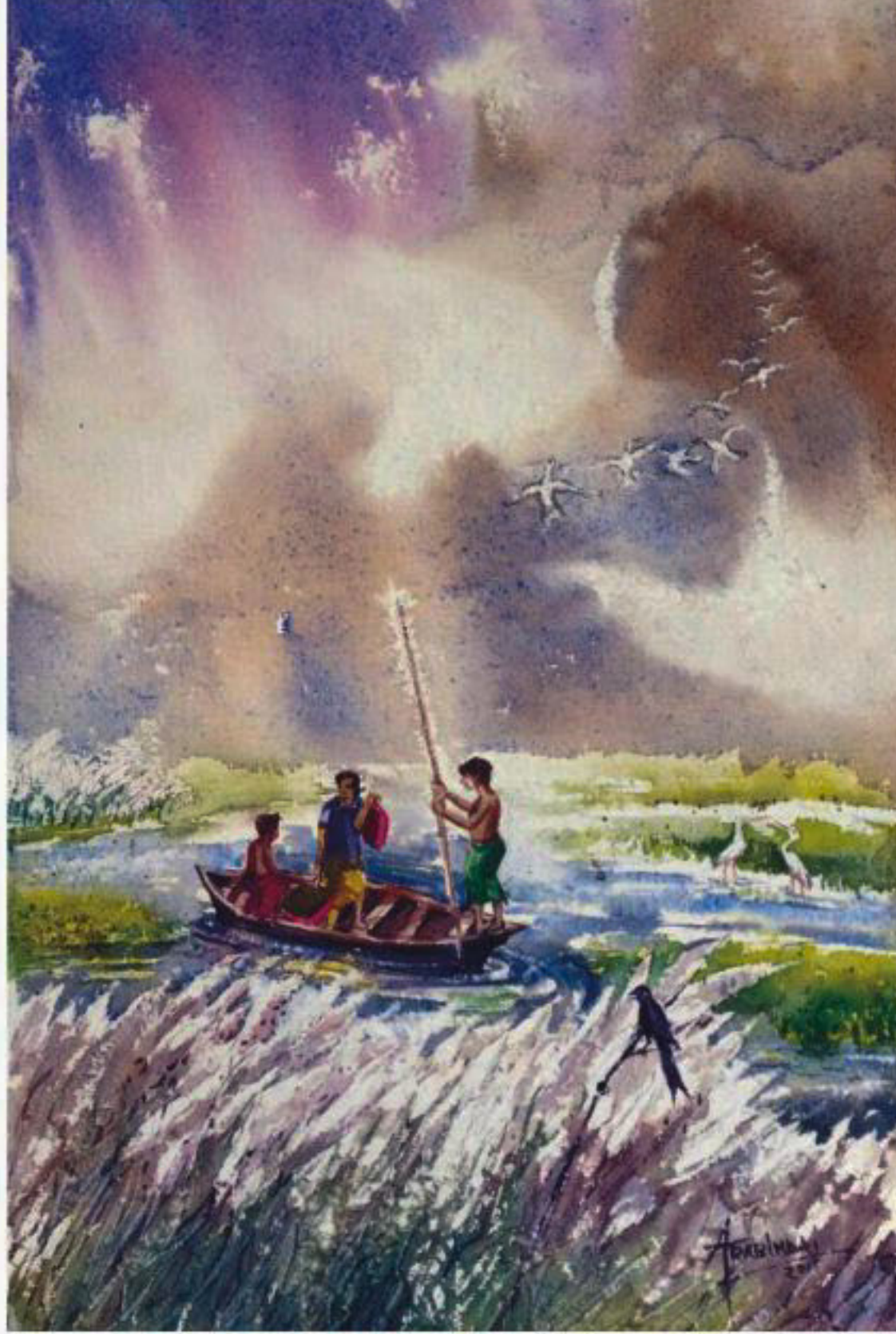
Arabinda, a reticent painter and art teacher, prefers to stay away from the limelight. When approached by The Daily Star, he said, "This is too much, I do not want to be overexposed with my simple work. I believe in working alone".

Arabinda was born in Habiganj in 1953 and brought up in Sylhet. He completed his graduation from the Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University (then Bangladesh Institute of Arts and Crafts) in 1976. After a couple of years in Dhaka, he left for Sylhet and started his career as an art teacher.

Teaching children and painting in his studio, is the life he has chosen. "Being graced by the legendary painter Zainul Abedin, Qamrul Hasan and SM Sultan, I learned how to lead a life with the paintings. Some of my works are the shadow of these legends' works," said Arabinda.

He added, "My paintings at the exhibition are on the subject of idylls of villages, seasonal diversity, romance, natural calamities, Liberation War etc."

The exhibition is jointly organised by Sylhet Art and Autistic School and Sylhet District Administration.



J-Lo teases new song

Jennifer Lopez will debut her new song "Ain't Your Mama" during her performance on the series finale of "American Idol" on Thursday (Friday morning in Bangladesh time).

In a Facebook live chat, the Idol judge not only announced the exciting news, but also gave a little preview of what her track sounds like.

"Ain't Your Mama" will also be available on iTunes following the finale, which will crown this season's winner. The three-part finale started Tuesday night with the 90-minute special "American Idol: American Dream" hosted by Ryan Seacrest. Former Idols including Jennifer Hudson, Carrie Underwood and Kelly Clarkson are scheduled to appear on the season finale.

American Idol began airing on Fox on June 11, 2002, as an addition to the Idols format based on the British series Pop Idol, and has since become one of the most successful shows in the history of American television. The concept of the series was to find new solo recording artists, with the winner being determined by the viewers in America. Winners were chosen by viewers through telephone, Internet, and SMS text voting. The original judges were record producer and music manager Randy Jackson, pop singer and choreographer Paula Abdul and music executive and manager Simon Cowell. The judging panel has undergone some change, and in the final season this year has country singer Keith Urban, Lopez, and jazz singer Harry Connick, Jr. The show was originally hosted by radio personality Ryan Seacrest and comedian Brian Dunkleman, with Seacrest continuing on for the rest of the seasons.

Source: Billboard

