

CERAMIC SONGS OF THE SOIL

"Moving Roots" by Ashim Halder Sagor

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Talented artist Ashim Halder Sagor's third solo ceramic sculpture exhibition titled "Moving Roots" was inaugurated on May 20 at Gallery Twenty One, Dhanmondi.

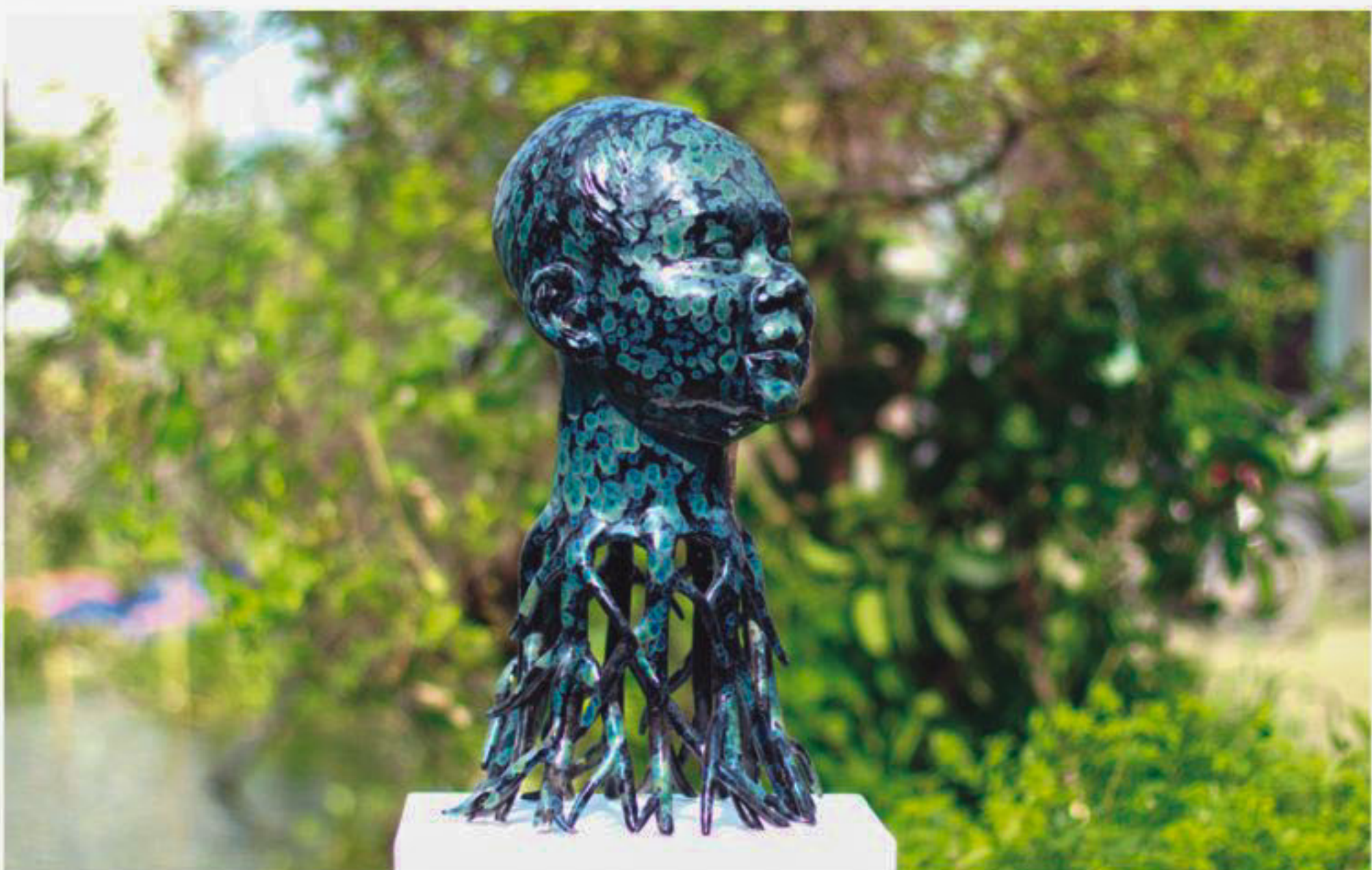
The exhibition evokes a universal appeal. Sagor, with his devoted artistic pursuits and experiments, has created his own language of art over the years. The artist serenades the songs of soil and soul while mingling his artistic efforts with creating arts and sculptures.

His art practice began as a traditional ceramic artist. In 2008, while attending Raku workshops in Dhaka and Chittagong, he was exposed to this Japanese art form that has its roots in ceramics. Bringing a new aspect to his practice since then, he created unique, mechanical and self-modeled Raku and ceramic sculptures. This exploration of techniques and use of China clay was to create non-functional and experimental pieces that trace our elementary needs, common crisis circling contemporary life, ecology, environment, climatic change and global terrorism.

Aside from everyday use, Raku has become popular for its aesthetic value both in the East and the West.

Sagor envisages the affluence of nature in close harmony with living beings, and at the same time, he expects human beings' sensible approach to nature. Thus, following the artistic contemplations and efforts, he creates pieces of art and sculptures that are suggestive of human beings' close affinity and co-existence with nature.

In his third solo exhibition, the artist has



depicted some ceramics sculptures assimilating portraits of a female and a child alongside his own one, with the elements of nature like flowers, birds, saplings, plants and branches of trees. The colours and composition coupled with the textures formed on the surface of the works are scintillating. His love for flowers and birds unequivocally demonstrates his utter passion of Bangladeshi folk arts.

The artist is greatly motivated by the saying -- "Know Thyself". He frequently questions who he is and what message he wants to relay through his arts. The outcome of his thoughts sometimes helps him develop his works

anew. He follows different art media such as installation, performance and digital video to express his feelings. His sculptures entail a powerful combination of avant-garde, surrealist and classic forms.

Sagor was placed first, securing first class in both his BFA (Honours) and MFA from the Department of Ceramics, FFA, University of Dhaka. He has participated in many group art exhibits, workshops and residencies both at home and abroad. He was the youngest Bangladeshi artist at the 14th Asian Art Biennale where he presented an installation with his short film "Dhopa".

STAR MELODIES SOIREE ON TUESDAY

Nazrul's kabya-geeti and Raaga-based songs in spotlight



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Star Melodies, The Daily Star's regular initiative to promote Bangla music, is set to hold a musical evening on Tuesday, May 31 at the AS Mahmud Seminar Hall of The Daily Star Centre, marking National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's 117th birth anniversary.

Both prominent and promising singers -- Subir Nandi, Yasmin Mushtari, Priyanka Gope, Sheikh Jashim and Chhanda Chakrabarty -- will present Kazi Nazrul Islam's kabya-geeti and Raaga-based songs.

Sadya Afreen Mallick, Editor, Star Arts & Entertainment, will comper the event.

The programme will begin at 6:30pm. Invitation passes can be collected from The Daily Star Centre. Seats are limited and available on first-come first-serve basis.

Eastern Bank Limited and Chalacchitram are assisting in the programme.

Swiss Embassy launches photography contest

A CORRESPONDENT

The Embassy of Switzerland has launched a photography competition for young and aspiring Bangladeshi photographers from around the country, titled "Focus on Culture". Top ten winners of the contest will have the opportunity to participate in a three-day photography workshop in September conducted by leading Bangladeshi photographer GMB Akash, followed by an opportunity to show their work at a public exhibition in Dhaka.

This competition, organised by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC, was launched on May 26 by the Ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh Mr. Christian Fotsch. "Photography is a powerful media for expression and to reflect on the society around us," the ambassador said during the launch.



Ambassador Christian Fotsch (C) speaks at the launching ceremony.

"This competition will provide young and passionate Bangladeshi photographers an opportunity to improve their skills and a platform to express themselves through lens."

A six-member jury panel comprising international and local photographers and experts will evaluate the entries and determine the finalists. The main objectives of the competition are to promote the young Bangladeshi photographers and hone their photographic skills.

Interested contestants can visit the web site focusonculture.net for more information and to electronically submit their entries. The entries must focus on the following themes: the role of culture (art) in society, and/or intercultural realities and cultural encounters in Bangladesh. Each contestant can submit a maximum of five photographs by July 27.

SHADHONA'S dance fest begins tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking the 50th episode of their monthly dance programme "Nuper Beje Jaye", reputed dance school Shadhona is holding a two-day festival from tomorrow at the Main Auditorium of the Bangladesh National Museum.

The first day (May 29) -- on the 50th presentation of "Nuper Beje Jaye", internationally-acclaimed Kathak dancer Ashimbandhu Bhattacharya and his group Upasana Dance Center will be presenting a lecture demonstration on Kathak followed by "Pratibimba", a dance-drama based on the creative exposition of Kathak.

On the second day, US dancer

Kathleen Weitz will be presenting a contemporary dance composition with Bangladeshi dancers, followed by contemporary dances choreographed by young Bangladeshi dancers. The programme will conclude with an exposition of Bharatanatyam by the Kolpotoru Ensemble.

Shadhona will also display a two-day photography exhibition highlighting two decades of their work in the cultural field. The exhibit will begin at 6:30pm and the show will start at 7 pm.

Tickets for the shows are available at www.jetechao.com and www.ticketchai.com and Jatra (Banani and Dhanmondi branches).



THE CHEESE CHALLENGE



On this episode, the musical band Shunno graces the Super Chef stage to cheer the participants and sings one of their famous songs 'Shoto Asha'. It's a song about hope and courage, which will be a huge motivation for the participants ahead of their tough challenge. On this episode they are given Dhaka Paneer and creating a dish with it will not be an easy task. After sometime,

the participants are given additional ingredients to cook with and they will be the ones to decide how to use them. Not an easy job but that's the path of becoming the great Super Chef. Watch Rupchanda - The Daily Star Super Chef and find out who become the 3 semifinalists and learn how only cheese can be the main ingredient of many dishes.



Watch Every Saturday and Sunday 9PM only on ntv

Repeat time is Sunday & Monday 1:10 pm

APOCALYPSE IN DHAKA

Latest X-Men film releases at Cineplex

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Superhero films are all the rave these days, particularly with the battle between the DC and Marvel Cinematic Universe franchises piling up massive numbers in box offices all across the world. This year has been a particularly busy for fans of comic-book superhero films, and the latest in that line -- the oldest of the running superhero franchises, X-Men, has just arrived in Dhaka.

Bryan Singer's "X-Men: Apocalypse", the ninth film of 20th Century Fox films based on the Marvel Comics, released in Dhaka yesterday, simultaneously with its US release, at the capital's Star Cineplex. The 3D film premiered to a packed house on Thursday.

"X-Men" films have always had a complicated timeline, constantly going back and forth. "Apocalypse", the sequel to the last release "Days of Future Past", brings back a

number of familiar characters, while rebooting and introducing a few new ones. James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence, Nicholas Hoult and Lucas Till return as Charles Xavier/Professor X, Erik



Lehnschert/Magneto, Raven/Mystique, Hank McCoy/Beast and Alec Summers/Havok respectively. Evan Peters reprises his role of Quicksilver from "Days of Future Past", while Tye Sheridan, Kodi-Shmit-McPhee,

Sophie Turner and Alexandra Shipp assume the roles of young Cyclops, Nightcrawler, Jean Grey and Storm. The new characters are Oscar Isaac as the titular antagonist Apocalypse, Olivia Munn as Psylocke and Ben Hardy as Angel. Hugh Jackman appears only in a glimpse, in a cameo of his iconic character of Wolverine.

Without giving away any spoilers, the film shows a young group of mutants faced against a resurrected Apocalypse -- the first mutant from tens of thousands of years ago -- and his four accomplices, dubbed the Four Horsemen. As their leader Professor X is kidnapped, the mutants must gather all their might to stop Apocalypse from wiping the earth and starting a new 'civilization'.

Although there have been some negative reviews early on in its release, loyalists of the franchise will have a lot to be excited about it, particularly for watching it in 3D on the big screen.



X-MEN APOCALYPSE

QUIZ CONTEST

10 WINNERS EVERYDAY! 2 PREMIUM TICKETS FOR EACH WINNER

The Daily Star | STAR Cineplex

Email your answer to starquiz@outlook.com by 4.00 pm today with your name, DOB, mobile number and address. The winners of the quiz will be announced tomorrow in this newspaper and through email

QUIZ - 01

1. Who was the first mutant of Marvel's X-Men universe?