



| SPORT |

One-Day Internationals over any format, for me, any day of the week. But the hype that surrounds the leagues is infectious and even I couldn't have escaped it even if I wanted to. Bangladesh is already a cricket-loving no, cricket-crazy, nation. And when Bangladesh is in need of not just the gentleman's cricket, but the kind with lots of action, entertainment, big knocks, unorthodox shots, all packed into three and half hours- we turn to the Bangladesh Premier League.

While the BPL is non-stop entertainment, what I like most about these leagues is the new heroes we come across. Every year, a fresh new batch of talented sportsmen gets the opportunity to show us what they are made of- whether from home or abroad. Don't get me wrong, the older players are just as worth watching, as you see them in their finest element, slapping the ball away to give maximum excitement.

The Barisal Bulls are equipped with a mighty Brathwaite, who single-handedly lifted the West Indian team to victory in this year's T20 World Cup, and who will not remember, the night of the "champions"? They also have big names like Thisara Perera from Sri Lanka, our very own Mushfiqur Rahim and Shahriar Nafees. We will also get to see Taijul work with the ball again. Chittagong Vikings,



THE BPL HYPE

NAZIBA BASHER

PHOTOS: COURTESY

always a favourite during BPL, stars the mighty Chris Gayle, whose Scintillating sixes can stop your breath. Tymal Mills from England is an exciting addition, and of course local favourites Tamim and Taskin will have the limelight upon them throughout the tournament. Batting giants like Ahmed Shehzad and Imrul Kayes will

be seen in former winners', Comilla Victorians, squad, and of course, our very own Captain Mashrafe will be leading with the ball.

Dhaka Dynamites, an all-time favourite, has some of the biggest names of the cricketing world playing under their banner- the likes of Kumar

Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Shakib Al Hasan and Nasir Hossain are enough to scare their opponents! The new kid on the block is Khulna Titans, and they are ready with their strong squad to take home the title- with international big hitters like Andre Fletcher, who helped the West Indies secure their T20 WC win against Sri Lanka, and young Nicholas Pooran who surprised the world with a knock of 143 against Australia in the 2014 U-19 World Cup, Riki Wessels from Australia, our very own Mahmudullah Riyadh, and bowlers like Kevon Cooper, Pakistani Junaid Khan, and homeboy Shafiqul Islam, among others. Young Mominul will play alongside Windies giant Darren Sammy as teammates in the Rajshahi Kings squad, and we'll see the likes of Boom Boom Afridi, Arafat and Elias Sunny, and Soumya in the Rangpur Riders team.

Now add to that a bunch of exciting newcomers who can, and sometimes do, enthrall us more than the more experienced bunch- and you have the BPL summed up.

The weather has finally cleared up, the field is set, the players have been training, and the fourth edition of the Bangladesh Premier League has begun. What are you waiting for? Get your tickets, go to the stadium, and join us in this year's BPL hype! ■



| EXHIBITION |

OPENING UP A NEW HORIZON OF ORIENTAL PAINTING IN BANGLADESH

ZAHANGIR ALOM

PHOTOS: COURTESY

In art classifications, oriental art exists as one of the major branches as it is often interchangeably used with the terms Eastern or Asian art originating from various Asian cultures. During the first decade of the 19th century - inspired by Rabindranath Tagore - a group of Bengali artists, prominently Shilpacharya Abanindranath Tagore incorporated all oriental art trends including, Ajanta, Elora, Mughal Miniature, Persian, Chinese and Japanese art heritage towards forming a Neo-Bengal School that upheld *swadeshi* (patriotic) values.

Later, following that trend, Abanindranath's disciples, especially Nandalal Bose and other popularised oriental art in India. Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin established the Department of Oriental Art in the Government Institute of

The exhibited artworks range from elements found in nature to human figures and portraits, landscapes, contemporary reality, mythical nuance, feminine grace, cultural heritage and even a few abstract pieces. The exhibition presents works on diverse art media like oriental wash media, tempera, watercolour on silk, gouache, acrylic on canvas and paper, print, oxide charcoal on board and etching.

Artist Shawkatuzzaman portrayed twilight-time hilly landscape that evokes a spiritual quest. Professor Abdus Satter's work deals with print, but it has an impression of wash painting technique. He has superbly depicted the lotus following simple forms with scintillating colours. Malay Bala observes the beauty and diversity of nature



Hasiba Yesmin, Bangladesh.



Nipa Rani Saker, Bangladesh.

Arts and Crafts (Now Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka) in 1955.

Bangladeshi artists have carved a niche in the oriental art milieu over the years. With single-minded devotion and talent, they have created an art language of their own and have taken our collective art legacy to a greater height.

The 6th Oriental Painting Exhibition 2016, organised by Oriental Painting Study Group (OPSG) in association with The Daily Star and the Department of Oriental Art, University of Dhaka, is now on-going at the Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka. The exhibition, opening from 11 am to 8pm daily, will continue till November 13.

A total of 83 artworks by 77 artists from Bangladesh and India, including selective paintings by the students of the Department of Oriental Art, University of Dhaka (DU) and Faculty of Fine Arts (Oriental Art Discipline), Rajshahi University (RU), are on display at the show.

through his keen aesthetic lens of the mind. The artist, using less and soft colours, has beautifully portrayed the desired human life resembling a tree.

Rashid Amin's work is interplay of a Chinese wash technique with the lovely aspects of Bengali monsoon. Shankar Majumder's work delineates the struggle of rural females. Dr. Shushanta Kumar Adhikary work has hinted at the absorption of oriental principles and style by Western masters like Picasso. Kantideb Adhikary's piece gives social messages comparing the life of parasites with that of street children.

Suman Baidya's work has symbolically portrayed an ominous bird that takes away a beguiled human being on its wings. Amit Nandi's painting helps viewers think of the contemporary reality in a different approach. Incorporating the form of traditional *Sora* painting.

The exhibition is significant with regard to the participation of some renowned Indian artists. Anuradha



Arghaya Diptakar, India.

Gayen artwork is suggestive of vibrant hues and compositional beauty. Haren Das' artwork delineates pigeons in a beautiful natural setting. Through the use of colour, movement, light and shades, Swapan Das searches the subconscious of Sigmund Freud in the mystical land of Lalou. The linear, two-dimensional works of some of the participants bear distinguishable style of oriental art.

To motivate current students of the Oriental Art discipline, OPSG has launched Oriental Painting Awards this year. OPSG has conferred five awards worth Taka one lakh on five young artists among the 26 participating students of DU and RU at the inaugural ceremony held on November 8. OPSG has also organised a five-day (November 9-13) oriental wash painting workshop, conducted by noted Indian artist Swapan Das, at the Department of Oriental Art, DU. Besides, the group has also launched a website that will display oriental paintings globally by the artists of Bangladesh and beyond.

Warm colours, mature composition, golden section, decorative motif, soothing texture coupled with exquisite tonal gradation appear very strong in Nipa Rani Sarkar's work that has bagged the 1st Oriental Painting Award. Nipa poetically depicted the saga of celestial romance in her work. The artist immaculately incorporated aesthetic elements of nature like blossoming lotus and its leaves, feathers of peacock to signify the divine love between Lord Shiva and Parvati.

Raihan Ahamad, who is the 2nd Award recipient, has depicted an innovative theme. His portrayal of a woman using laptop in modern times is evocative of style and colour treatment of famous oriental painter Abdur Rahman Chughtai.

The philology of time with the symbols of zodiac is apparent in Samina Zaman's work that has received the third award. Abu Hossain's painting evokes elusive beauty. He has received honourable mention award for this work that incorporates surrealistic imagery. Hasura Akther Rumky has also received an honourable mention award for her painting that is the depiction of a female visage mingled with nature. Nature with its diverse element and the female figures are recurrent themes revolving around the works of other participating students, whose works are no less important than the award winning ones.

The purpose of holding this exhibition is to inspire both artists and art connoisseurs in searching their cultural roots and to nurture their very own art heritage. OPSG aims to open up a new horizon of oriental painting in Bangladesh. ■