

WHAT'S ON

15th Dhaka International Film Festival
 Organiser: Rainbow Film Society
 Venue: National Museum, AFD, EMK Center & Star Cineplex
 Date: January 12-20
 Time: 3pm-6pm

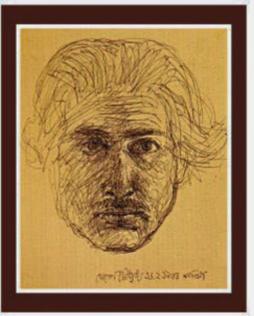
Solo Cartoon Exhibition
 By: Architect Dr. Sajid Bin Doza Bonny
 Venue: La Gallery, AFD, Dhanmondi
 Date: Jan 16-24
 Time: 3-9pm

Bangladesh-China Group Ceramic Exhibit
 Venue: Zainul Gallery-1, FFA, DU
 Date: Jan 17-20
 Time: 11am-8pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: My Dream World
 Artist: Iranian Painter Sarah Hojati
 Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-7, Rd-13 (New), Dhanmondi
 Date: Jan 8-20
 Time: 3pm-8pm

Solo Flute Recital & Exhibition
 Artist: Ustad Azizul Islam
 Venue: Nalini Kanta Bhattacharya Gallery, BNM
 Date: Jan 20-24
 Time: 4pm

10th Annual Photography Exhibition
 Organiser: East-West University Photography Club
 Venue: Bishwo Shahitto Kendro auditorium, Banglamotor
 Date: Jan 18-20; Time: 3pm-8pm



A good piece of art fulfils half of an artist's commitment

IN CONVERSATION WITH JOGEN CHOWDHURY

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Eminent poet and painter Jogen Chowdhury is a professor at Visva Bharati University. He is a popular MP, elected by the MLAs of the State Government of West Bengal, India. The living legend was born and raised up in Faridpur of the then undivided Bengal. In 1971, he wrote a poem and portrayed a painting called "Homage to Bangladesh".

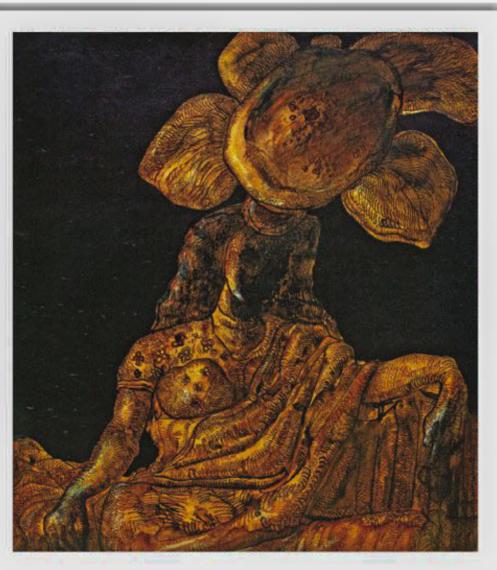
The master artist, currently a resident of India, recently received Zainul Sammanona 2016, conferred by Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka. In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, the artist shared many facets of his life and art. Here's the second part of the interview. Excerpts:

"The creation of an artist relays diverse feelings to the spectators. An art lover gets infused, interacted and reacted at the sight of the forms, textures, colours, composition and presentation of the artworks. We find rough texture in Ramkinkar's sculpture while Henry Moore's sculptures are polished. The understanding and realisation of arts is important. Rabindranath is the first Indian modern artist. His predecessors could reach that highest point."

"Tagore observed the European art, especially the Impressionistic and Expressionistic. His own paintings evoke expressionism. The Bard started painting at a mature phase of his life when his creative pursuits were already established in multitude fields like -poetry, dance, music, philosophy, thoughts on society and the world."

"His paintings convey untainted joy, a deep involvement. Our hearts automatically get attached to his arts. I have found the transcendental quality, the sense of infiniteness and a living vibration in his paintings. We also find these in the German expressionist forefather Van Gogh's paintings. Tagore observed all these things. The major difference between them is Tagore incorporated the conventional Indian conscience in his paintings; that's why his paintings are profound, tranquil and peaceful in manner."

"Tagore's paintings are like the movement of Indian Classical Music that is inward in nature while Van Gogh's ones are like the music of Beethoven that is outward in



approach. European artists showed the physical reality of a statue or form while Tagore showcased the essence of unreal and the surreal of supernatural in his works. A connotation of mysticism lies in his works."

"The timeless works of Matisse have enriched the arts of the world. So a good piece of art fulfils half of an artist's artistic commitment to humanity and society. We simultaneously find Picasso to protest through art in his famous mural-sized oil painting, Guernica. We find the same social conscience and consciousness in the paintings of Goya and in the works of the big three Mexican muralists -- Orozco, Rivera, Siqueiros."

"Every person is not socially liable. An artist must continue his artwork; his characteristic personality or social consciousness may involve in his work. I react at the killings, global terrorism, social disorder, decay and destruction, others may not be so and do work like a saint. My paintings have a reflection. An artist's first freedom is to make art."

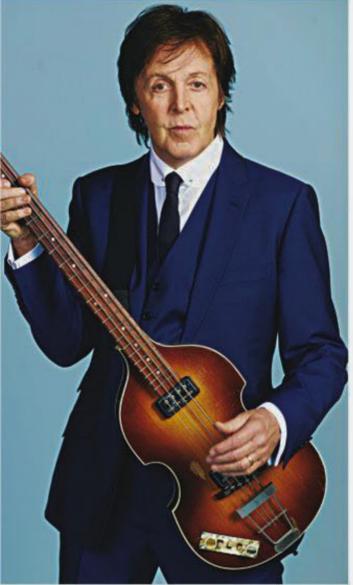
"Tagore created masterpieces like Achalayatan, Tasher Desh, Gora and Chandalika on the backdrop of society. The conscience lies in his minds genuinely. Again, the poetry of Subhash Mukherjee and Jibanananda Das are not the same. The sense of fantasy, beauty and life together with the complexity of personal relationships and social conscience are part of Jibanananda Das' paintings while Subhash Mukherjee is straight forward in his presentation. These are the parts of life. If someone tries to disown these, nothing is left in life. If I fill my life with harsh reality, I cannot pass a single day. I require a bit unreal fantasy... (laughs)"

"The touch of art, culture and beautiful environment are imperative to build a humanistic society. Why does a person get involved in wrongdoings? I think his genetics and education are primarily liable. We have to ensure that ambience. We have to give our children the proper atmosphere and freedom to flourish their creativity. If we train them up in a regimented environment, they will not become a proper human being. We have the same artistic and cultural roots. According to Okakura, an artist creates art incorporating his individual personality, his past history and the conflict of the present."

"While going to sketch the meditative statue of Prajnaparamita, it seemed like diffusing the rays of illumination and wisdom on me, and I got infused. Force, transcendence, meditative, supernatural — these are the words I use to explain art. I will try to keep it simple before embarking on the exposition. When something has been created out of something and the creative mind infuses it with a transcendental quality, making it out-of-the-world, sublime, meditative, or even supernatural, that is art. The beholder should be able to enjoy it with a feeling that is of a higher nature. I don't believe in any written religion. I think, religion should be changeable in accordance with the people of society."

NEWS bytes

McCartney sues Sony for rights to Beatles songs



Paul McCartney has filed suit in New York against Sony/ATV and is looking to get a declaratory judgment that states he will soon regain his copyright ownership share to a treasured catalog of songs created as a member of The Beatles.

In what could become one of the most important legal battles in the music industry this decade, he is looking to leverage the termination provisions of the Copyright Act.

In 1976, Congress increased the period that works are under copyright protection, and in recognition of authors who had signed over their rights to publishers and studios without much bargaining power, allowed such authors 35 years hence to reclaim rights in the latter stages of a copyright term. Artists such as Bob Dylan, Tom Petty and Prince have used the mere threat of termination to negotiate new deals and better compensation arrangements.

According to McCartney's complaint, he transferred rights to songs co-authored by him and John Lennon between 1962 and 1971 to various music publishers.



DU Theatre Department premieres "Bonhi Bisharjan Ba-Dweep"

A CORRESPONDENT

Theatre and Performance Studies Department of University of Dhaka (DU) premiered their new play "Bonhi Bisharjan Ba-Dweep" on January 18. The staging will continue every evening at Nat Mandal, DU till January 20.

The production has been adapted from three classics - "Nuruldiner Sarajiban" (poetical

drama), "Nishiddha Loban" (novel) and "Payer Awaj Pawa Jaye" (poetical drama) by ambidextrous writer Syed Shamsul Haq. Ahmedul Kabir has directed the play while the third year (6th semester) students of the department play different roles in the play.

The play depicts the saga of the Liberation War that chronologically recounts the exploitation and atrocities of Pakistani rulers and our struggle and sacrifice for independence.

Fans demand Ekushey Padak for Faridi



A CORRESPONDENT

A Facebook-based community is campaigning for Ekushey Padak honours for late eminent actor Humayun Faridi. A petition campaign began yesterday at TSC of Dhaka University and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, and it will travel to Jahangirnagar University on January 26. The campaign will travel to Chittagong next, and then to other cities, continuing up to the day of the announcement of this year's Ekushey Padak honours next month. Hundreds of people signed the petition on the first day.

Humayun Faridi, one of the most powerful theatre, TV and film actors of his time, passed away on February 13, 2012 at the age of 60. He began his career in the arts in his university days at Jahangirnagar University. He then

joined Dhaka Theatre and debuted on stage with "Sangbad Cartoon", and went on to act in many memorable productions: "Kittonkhola", "Keramat Mangal", "Muntasir Fantasy" to name a few. Faridi arrived on TV with "Nikhoj Sangbad" and it was with his television roles that Faridi became known to the entire country. Roles like Seraj Talukdar in "Bhangoner Shobdo Shuni" and the iconic Kaan-kata Ramzan in Shahidullah Kaiser-written "Sangsaptak" placed him in Bangladesh TV history. Faridi ventured in films at his later stage, beginning with 1990's "Santrash". In over 250 films, his most remarkable work being "Bichar Hobe", "Palabi Kothaye", "Hulia", "Ekattorer Jishu", "Matritto" (for which he won a National Award), "Joyjatra", "Shyamol Chhaya" and "Aha".

RAPID FIRE

Initially I had camera phobia --APURBO

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Since the start of his career Apurbo has entertained audiences with his laudable performance in TV plays and cinema. He has also ventured into television direction. Despite his busy shooting schedule the heartthrob recently made time to take on some rapid-fire questions from The Daily Star.

- What is the opposite of love?
Apurbo: Hatred.
- Which song comforts you on bad days?
Apurbo: I turn to a popular song by the band Wings, "Hridoy Jure Joto Bhalobasha".
- Do you have camera phobia?
Apurbo: Initially I did, but not anymore.
- Do you believe in astrology?
Apurbo: I did previously. Now reading astrology-related books are more of a fun read.
- Do you have any regrets?
Apurbo: I don't believe in regrets. I'm content with my achievements.
- Do you love traveling?
Apurbo: I am a frequent traveler. I go on tours outside Dhaka whenever possible.
- What turns you off?
Apurbo: Liars and backbiters.
- How do you start your day?
Apurbo: Seeing my child's face and cuddling him.
- Are you a morning person or a night owl?
Apurbo: I prefer night time, especially when the sky is lit up by moonlight.
- At the end of a hard day's work, who do want to return to?
Apurbo: To my family and child.

