


WHAT'S ON

Ekushey Book Fair
 Organiser: Bangla Academy
 Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan
 Date: February 1-28
 Time: 3-8pm



Bengal Sangskriti Utshab
 Organiser: Bengal Foundation
 Venue: AMA Muhith Sports Complex, Sylhet
 Date: Feb 22-Mar 3
 Time: 4pm onwards



Theatre
 Play: Crutch-er Colonel
 Troupe: BotTala
 Venue: Mahila Samity Auditorium
 Date: Feb 24-25
 Time: 7pm



Concert
 Jatra Biroti Live Sessions
 Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani
 Date: Feb 23-25
 Time: 7pm



Theatre Festival
 3rd Ekushey Natyotshab
 Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan
 Date: Feb 1-28
 Time: 4pm

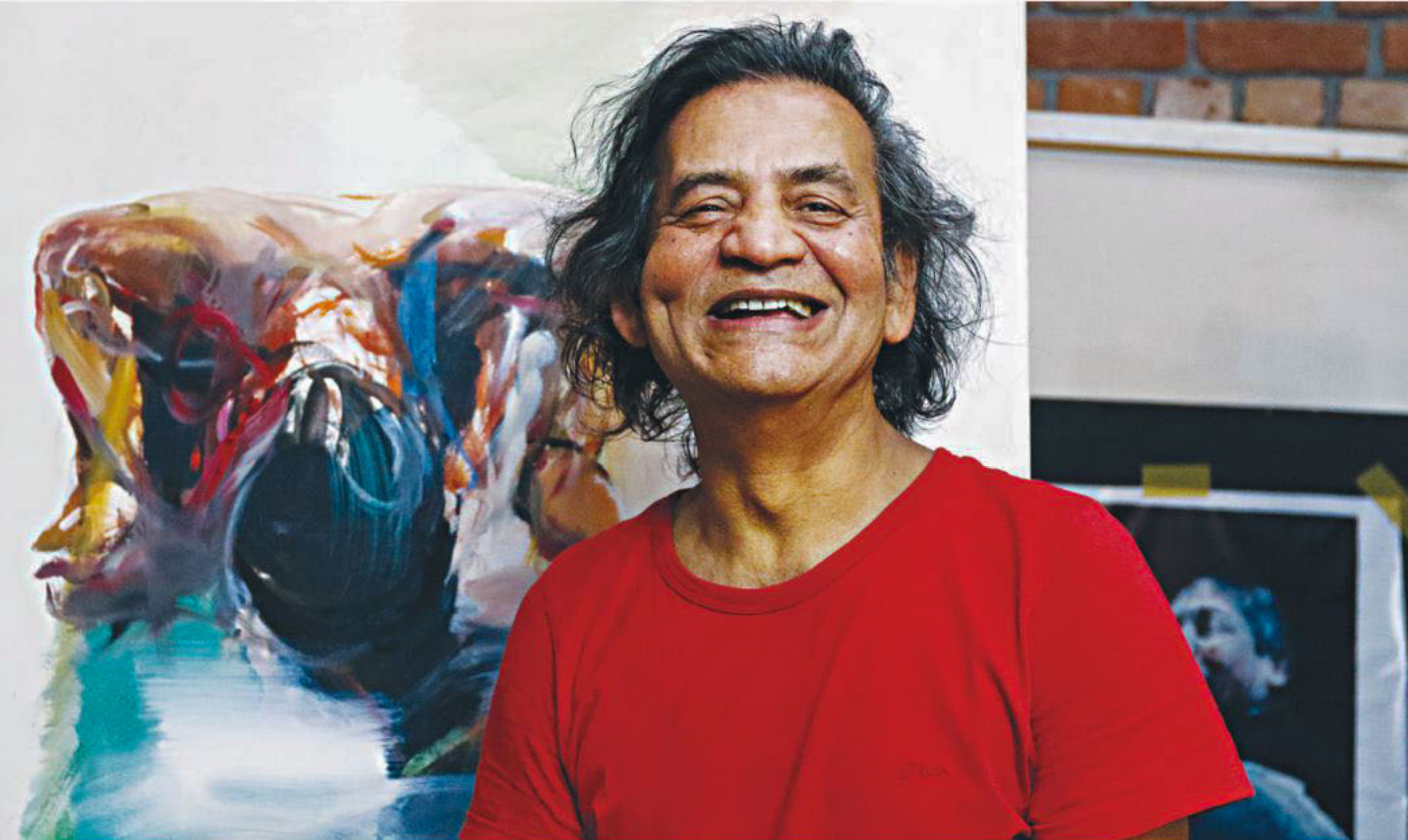



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

SHAHABUDDIN AHMED

in residence at Rashtrapati Bhavan

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, *New Delhi*

Internationally-acclaimed Bangladeshi painter Shahabuddin Ahmed today secured the distinction of becoming the first foreign artist to live in the hallowed precincts of Rashtrapati Bhavan here as an Artist In-Residence as a guest of Indian President Pranab Mukherjee.

During his stay at the Rashtrapati Bhavan located on Raisina Hills, an exhibition of 67-year-old Ahmed's 12 paintings, including portraits of iconic figures of freedom like Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore and the architect of Bangladesh's independence Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, will be put up for public viewing at the Museum of the Bhavan.

The paintings bring out the struggle

and sufferings of the commoners and greatness of political leaders in vibrant hues of blue.

"The experience of war has guided my path but contrary to what many believe, I don't paint war and it is in no way my creed. What I want to depict is the human sufferings in defiant postures, borderline situations along which an individual reaches his limits," said Ahmed, himself a Freedom Fighter, who was a platoon commander at the age of 21. He was the first to hoist the flag of Bangladesh on the roof of erstwhile Pakistan Radio on December 16, 1971. No wonder why the exhibition is titled "Shanti".

The 67-year-old artist says India is close to his heart and people like Gandhi, Tagore and Mother Teresa have been a great source of inspiration for

him.

The 'In-Residence' programme in Rashtrapati Bhavan for artists and writers was launched by President Mukherjee on December 11, 2013 with the aim of providing them an opportunity to stay in Rashtrapati Bhavan and be a part of its life. The programme seeks to provide an environment which will inspire creative thinking and rejuvenate artistic impulses.

Prominent Indian Artists In-Residence who have stayed in Rashtrapati Bhavan so far include Jogen Chowdhury, Shri Paresh Maity and Jayasri Burman.

The Indian President's interest in Ahmed's works exhibition at Rashtrapati Bhavan grew when he inaugurated a similar show of the artist in Kolkata in December 2015.

President Mukherjee then invited

Ahmed to be a resident-artist at Rashtrapati Bhavan and display his art works for public viewing.

Ahmed has been the recipient of the "Fifty Master Painters of Contemporary Arts" in 1992 at the Olympiad of Arts, Barcelona, besides being awarded the prestigious 'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres' in 2014 for his contribution to art in France as well as the rest of the world.

The exhibition will be on till February 22.

Shahabuddin's works are in the collection of the Museum of Bourg-en-Bresse in France, the National Museum of Bulgaria, the Olympic Museum of Lausanne in Switzerland, the Seoul Olympic Museum in South Korea, the National Museum of Taiwan, Bangladesh National Museum and many other galleries and private collections.



Eva makes musical strides



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

A CORRESPONDENT

Upcoming singer Ismat Ara Eva is a relatively new face in the popular music scene, but the artiste is already making big strides in her growing career. The singer has released two solo albums, the second hitting the market last year. This week, the artiste will release a music video on the song "Ektu Shudhu Chhowa" from her latest album, titled "Ek Mutho Roud". Produced by Purple Vision Pictures, the video will be released under the banner G-Series and will be available online on YouTube.

The video is directed by Tanvir Ahmed, and will star models Fuad and Affri Selina. With lyrics by Samuel Haque and composition by Faisal Ahmed, Amzad Hossain is the arranger of the song.

Regarding the motivation behind her latest venture, Eva said, "I have had more music videos released previously, and the excitement I felt from the release of my first video will remain unparalleled. Tanvir Ahmed and others involved with the work of my second album expressed interest in making a video based on this particular song, which in turn inspired me to do so."

Although Eva is trained as a Nazrul singer, the artiste's solo albums consist of songs in a myriad of styles, ranging from classical and folk to contemporary. "Nazrul songs are diverse, which motivates me to try my hand in different song styles. However my primary interest remains focused on semi-classical and Nazrul Sangeet, and it is what I mainly practice."



PHOTO: STAR

JAMES

rocks Sylhet at 'Down to Earth'

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, *Sylhet*

James, fondly referred to as the 'Guru' by fans, clearly remembered the birth anniversary of famous poet Jibananda Das on February 17, as he started his concert with the very famous song "Padma Patar Jol" where poet and poetry blended perfectly.

Thousands of rock music lovers gathered at Sylhet Sadar upazila field at Shahi Eidgah area where 'The Banned Community' of Leading

University organised mega concert titled "Down to Earth" with James. James appeared before the audience at around 10pm and the open air concert with one of the biggest hits of his career.

Audiences greeted their 'Guru', cheering loudly and singing along with him.

With the songs "Bijli", "Sultana Bibiana", "Lace Fita Lace" and many other hits, James enthralled the audience with his voice and charismatic

stage presence.

Before James's performance, 'The Banned Community' performed on stage, much to the delight of the eager audience.

The concert with James was one of the biggest hits as a concert in Sylhet. It also revealed the identity of Sylhet as the true land of music, art and culture.

James ended the concert with "Pagla Hawa", and the audience left the field to the resonance of James' signature style of music.

'Commando 2' trailer is high on stunts

Bollywood is toiling to match steps with Hollywood, at least in the action space. Vidyut Jammwal's "Commando 2" has stunts in plenty, evident from its trailer, which features well over 20 action scenes. Apparently, the trailers of Hollywood action films usually feature approximately 10 stunt-based frames but "Commando 2" trailer features way more.

If that's with the trailer, one can only imagine what the film might have on offer. Given Vidyut's record with action scenes in "Commando" and the exceptional portrayal of martial arts, the audience must gear up for plenty of action-packed sequences which will keep them on the edge of their seats. In the upcoming actioner, Vidyut reprises his part, Karanvir Singh Dogra, from the previous outing. He's an international spy working to eradicate black money. The movie also stars Adah Sharma, Freddy Daruwala, Esha Gupta and Shefali Shah in pivotal roles.



Source: TNN

Super Chef 2017

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