

WHAT'S ON
Painting Exhibition
 Bangabandhu Bangladesh
 Organiser: BSA & Samatat
 Sonargaon
 Venue: National Art Gallery, BSA
 Date: March 4-17
 Time: 11am-8pm




Photography Exhibition
 Title: London 1971: Unsung Heroes of the Bangladesh Liberation War
 Venue: British Council
 Date: March 3-31



Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: Journey & Images
 Artist: Ranjit Das
 Venue: Galleri Kaya
 Date: March 12-25
 Time: 11am-8pm



Duet Print Exhibition
 Title: Diversity in Duality by Ajit Seal & Uttam Kumar Basak
 Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-7, Rd-13 (New), Dhanmondi
 Date: Mar 12-24
 Time: 3-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
 In Memory of Khalid Mahmood Mithu
 Venue: Zainul Gallery, FFA, DU
 Date: March 7-13
 Time: 12noon-8pm



NEWS bytes



"Avatar 2" delayed again

Director James Cameron has revealed that the sequel to "Avatar", the highest-grossing movie of all time worldwide, will no longer be released Christmas 2018.

The second installment in the planned five-film franchise has been delayed for a third time, after it was initially scheduled to hit theatres in December 2014. The other three films were originally slated for release during Christmastime 2020, 2022, and 2023. The director didn't mention whether the other sequels are behind schedule as well, but those releases will likely be affected, too, as the films will be shot simultaneously.

"Well, 2018 is not happening. We haven't announced a firm release date," Cameron told The Toronto Star when asked what he could disclose about the development.

"What people have to understand is that this is a cadence of releases. So, we're not making 'Avatar 2,' we're making 'Avatar 2,' '3,' '4,' and '5.' It's an epic undertaking."

Stars Sam Worthington and Zoe Saldana will reprise their roles in the sequels, while Sigourney Weaver, whose character died in the 2009 original, will play a new role. "Avatar" hauled \$2.8 billion worldwide and won three Oscars in 2010.

Source: **Variety**

Of surrealistic forms and poetic compositions

DUET PRINT EXHIBITION AT SHILPANGAN

ZAHANGIR ALOM

A 13-day duet print exhibition titled "Diversity in Duality" is now on at Gallery Shilpangan in Dhanmondi where art connoisseurs can see some outstanding works by Ajit Seal -- an eminent printmaker of Visva-Bharati University, Shantiniketan, India, and his colleague Uttam Kumar Basak.

Professor Rafiqun Nabi inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest on March 12. Professor Nisar Hossain, Dean, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka; architect and art connoisseur Mustapha Khalid Palash and Rupali Chowdhury, Managing Director, Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited spoke at the inaugural ceremony.

Ajit Seal's long engagement with the media has taught him that articulating a composition can never be independent of the medium's possibilities, uniqueness and particularity, which heavily influence the final outcome. As a student of revered printmaker Somnath Hore, Ajit himself has attained mastery over the printmaking medium.

His prints have a velvet-soft appearance that is evocative of the delicacy of watercolours or pastels. He manages to do large-sized prints in multicolour with an illusory ease of diverse forms -- geometric, surrealistic and abstract. His imaginative world consists of serene human figures, frail birds and shy tortoises that coexist peacefully, shrouded in an ethereal light and shade.

At the exhibition, Ajit portrays a lean figure with staring ribs in a ground of stunning textures in tones of red and brown. Its sculpture-esque irony is reminiscent of Somnath Hore's bronzes. Stunning etching, photography and lithography are the highlight of the show. As a faculty member at the Department of Printmaking in Kala Bhavana of Visva-Bharati University, Ajit introduced platography, a medium previously unexplored by artists and students working at Santiniketan. In the platography process, the lithographic stone is replaced by an aluminium plate.

The nuance of surrealism is apparent in some of Ajit Seal's works. It is evident in a bent female figure floating down to the bottom of the composition through a landscape along with some abstract forms in a misty space, while a tortoise floats down to her. In this dreamscape

where the known becomes unknown, the slumbering figure floats helplessly without any active agency.

The animal, human body, face and twisted female figure appeared as recurrent motifs in the works of both. One of Uttam Basak's etchings depicts a portrait

of a man with an intriguing expression. Another of his etchings, "Cry for Peace", shows an antagonistic feature between a tiger and a female figure.

There are some abstract and semi-abstract works at the exhibition, that is open daily from 3pm to 8pm till March 24.



"Reflection"; Lithograph by Ajit Seal.



NABILA
 not looking to bank on "Aynabaji" fame

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Embarking on a career in the media as a presenter and then a model, popular actor Nabila's success rose to tremendous heights after her film debut in "Aynabaji". Since then, she has been much sought-after for various acting projects.

"I want to go on working in films. If the script appeals to me, I will consider taking up the offer. I want to take my acting career seriously and that's why I shall only make good films," shared the actor.

Like all viewers, Nabila is lying in wait for a good script to come by. The actor expressed her anticipation to The Daily Star: "I am waiting for something good that appeal to me and all viewers."

Along with offers in film, Nabila is also receiving a plethora of offers from the small screen. However, "I do not want to act in TV plays," she says.

However, the artiste is keeping herself occupied as a presenter. Ekushey TV is airing a programme titled "Ek Dish Dui Cook", with Nabila as host. Four episodes have been aired so far from a total of 13 episodes.

"The show is truly innovative," commented Nabila, "each episode features a celebrity who spontaneously visits a family at their home, creating great surprise."

Aside from anchoring, the actor starred in a commercial directed by Redoan Rony.



Here's why Kangana will never work with Shah Rukh Khan

Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut says she is certain she will never work with Shah Rukh Khan, or for that matter, any of the Khans of the industry.

In a recent interview with film critic Rajeev Masand, she has revealed that she is almost certain she will never work with Shah Rukh Khan. She was asked if not working with the Khans of Bollywood would harm the chances of having a long and glorious career in films.

Elaborating on her stance, the three-time National Award winner said, "In fact, there is no longevity with working with Khans. It's the other way around. Where would it take me? Can it take me a notch higher than where I already am? It cannot! What can it give me that I have already not achieved? I can't see a single thing...if you can tell me."

She went on to explain how in a Khan film, they dominate every frame and she would want to build her own brand.

"I have popularity. I have built a fan following of mine; where do I go from here? The only way I can last is by growth.

That I will only get if I go a notch higher than my last film. In a film, there's only one hero. There are exceptions of course. Let's talk about a Khan film. Who is the hero in that film? When I have done and am working on films that give me the possibility of building a brand of my own individually, it will be very stupid of me to go and stand behind someone else and try and en-cash their popularity," she was quoted in the Deccan Chronicle as saying.

But does that mean she has any bitterness against any of the Khans?

"Not really. Aamir is kind to discuss his films with me. It's not that I have a different attitude towards them when I am around them. My attitude remains the same. Until 'Queen', I was very open to working the Khans. After 'Tanu Weds Manu', I realised that if in a film, I am not the hero, it will disappoint everyone. It's a very professional strategy that I have adopted. And Shah Rukh sir, I am a huge fan. It's very unfortunate that our paths will never cross," she said.

Source: **Hindustan Times**

Jalal Mela concludes in Mymensingh



AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A two-day festival dedicated to Jalal Uddin Khan, the great baul artiste of Mymensingh region, concluded at Town Hall premises Friday evening.

Jalal Chetona Parishad Mymensingh, an organisation established in memory of Jalal Khan organised the festival styled Jalal Mela, the first of its kind in the country.

A baul artiste and composer, Jalal Khan was born at village Ashodhati on April 24, 1894 in Kendua upazila of Netrakona. He embarked in the persona of a baul in 1922 and composed some 500 songs, still now widely sung by baul artistes of the country. A volume of his songs was published. He died on May 31, 1972.

Prominent baul artistes from

Mymensingh, Dhaka, Netrakona, Kishoreganj, Sherpur, Kustia and Natore performed at the festival.

The artistes were Shafi Mondal, Sunil Karmaker, Chandana Mazumder, Emon Talukder, Siraj Pathan, Suvash Rozario, Doel, Umed Ali, Anwar, Hasan, Yunus, Islam Uddin, Ashik, Aungshuman Dutta, Sohan Jajabor, Ruma Sarker, Jesmin Sarker, Lizu Baula and Mukul Sarker.

Marking the festival, discussions were held. Additional Divisional Commissioner of Mymensingh Mozammel Haque, Mymensingh Deputy Commissioner Md Khalilur Rahman and poet-lyricist Shahidullah Farazi spoke at the inaugural session, among others.

Poet Amjad Dulon, Sajal Quraishy and Enayet Kabir Surya anchored the two-day event.

Epic new "Wonder Woman" trailer released

The slate of superhero movies set to be released in 2017 has started with a bang, with studios delivering big wins with both "The LEGO Batman Movie" and "Logan". In a couple months, Marvel Studios' first offering of the year will be up on in cinemas with "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2", but the DC Extended Universe also gave fans a new taste of what they're cooking up this summer, with Patty Jenkins' "Wonder Woman", played by Gal Gadot.

This isn't the first trailer for the film, as there was an early look at San Diego Comic-Con last year, and footage was also put online at the end of last year, but this new preview offers some slick new material of the Amazonian's first

solo feature.

While the previous two Wonder Woman trailers focused more at Themyscira, this latest preview delves into what Diana's life growing up on the mystical island was like. Like many of the other women there, Diana was raised to be a warrior, but per the instructions of her mother, Queen Hippolyta, she was trained much harder than the others so that one day, she would become the best of them all.

Regardless, Diana will finally get the chance to prove herself when Steve Trevor (played by Chris Pine) crash-lands on Themyscira's shores, as she'll escort him back to "man's world" and attempt to put an end to World War I.

With her mystical sword, shield and the Lasso of Truth, she'll not only battle regular soldiers, but also go up against main baddies General Erich Ludendorff (an actual historic figure), Doctor Poison and eventually Ares, the God of War.

Still, not all of Diana's time in "Wonder Woman" will be spent fighting. She'll also learn the social ins and outs of early 20th century society, which includes how wielding a sword and shield in the streets of London isn't a great idea.

"Wonder Woman" is set to be released in theatres on June 2.

Source: **Cinemablend**

