

"Haldaa" out in theatres today

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

After building up heavy anticipation over the past year, Tauquir Ahmed-helmed "Haldaa" will finally break free from post production dams today to reach nearly a hundred theatres across the country. The movie tested the audience waters earlier this month with the release of two songs and a visually captivating trailer, as well as another song titled "Premer Agun" two days ago - all of which have been positively received.

"It gives me great joy to know that 'Haldaa' will reach so many halls, but what I'm really looking forward to is the audience response," stated the director. About the team's preparation around its release, Tauquir added: "There's no end to publicity campaigns - from print to television media, we have received overwhelming support. There's more planned for the times ahead."

"Haldaa" sports a strong cast, including Zahid Hasan who will make his return to the big screen after several years. In a narrative where the life and struggles of a woman is intertwined with the meandering river, Hasan portrays the role of a formidable, influential figure in the small fishing village.

"We spent a considerable amount of time filming on the Haldaa river banks," Hasan elaborated. "We endured scorching heat and other elements, but all that we put ourselves through, is for the ultimate appreciation and enjoyment of the audience. The film is finally here, and I look forward to a great turnout in theatres."

Among the central roles is Fazlur Rahman Babu's character, a poor, ill-



Mosharraf Karim, Zahid Hasan, Tisha, Tauquir Ahmed and Fazlur Rahman Babu on the "Haldaa" sets.

PHOTO: STAR

fated fisherman who faces many obstacles throughout the film. "Tauquir Ahmed is an extremely talented director. His film, 'Oggatonama' won accolades all over the world, even if it didn't reach a wide audience here. However, 'Haldaa' is a film made with the same acumen, and this time it welcomes the entire country for those who wish to see it," he said.

The female lead is portrayed by

Tisha, who plays the poor fisherman's daughter, Hashi. Her love for the river Haldaa runs deep and the tides turn on her when she suddenly finds herself trapped in a marriage with a rich man from the locality, and finds love in another. "I had to learn the Chittagong dialect for the film, which proved to be very challenging," stated Tisha. "The film has multiple layers. A tale of romance and heartbreak is set against

the wider struggles of a fishing community. I know viewers will find the film enthralling."

Caught in this tale of romance and doom is Mosharraf Karim's character, who works as a servant in a wealthy family's home. "My character is a tragic hero who is never destined to be joined by the woman he loves," he said, "I am proud of all the work we have put in, and eagerly anticipate its release today."



MD. ABBAS, CU

A seven-day solo sculpture exhibition titled "Mon Baganer Pakhi" featuring works of artist Samiran Dutta concluded at Chittagong's Shilpakala Academy's Zainul Abedin Art Gallery on Wednesday. Eminent artist Ahmed Newaz inaugurated the exhibition as the chief guest. The exhibition was dedicated to Freedom Fighter and sculptor Ferdousi

Priyabhashini.

A total of 145 sculptures, including furniture, were displayed at the exhibition. All the works were made from the roots of trees. The roots turned into a fisted human or become a flying bird with his artistic touch.

Some sculptures of men and women with raised fists with others approaching forward were seen at the entrance of the exhibit. The title of the sculpture was

"Michil" (Procession).

A little away, the dancing posture of Nataraj Shiva's sculpture named "Nittomoyi" could be seen.

Besides, a bird sculpture was seen standing on the next room of the gallery, ready to take flight. The artist titled the work "I am a free spirit".

The other sculptures include "Majhi Baiya Jao Re", "Gate of Hilly City", "Warm of Mother", "Omrito Paan", "Screaming",

"Conflict", "Capitalist", "Citizens Competition" and "Liberation and Flame".

"Different forms of structures are available in nature; I just tried to portray them and wanted to give them a shape with roots through my works," the artist told The Daily Star. Samiran Dutta said he was overwhelmed by the response of the visitors. He also expressed the hope that the exhibition would help visitors to think deeply about the elements of nature.

Weeklong wood sculpture exhibit ends in Chittagong

PHOTO: STAR

THE WEEKENDER "Winter is a special season for me"

...Airin Sultana

ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

Airin Sultana's ladder of success extends from the modeling ramp to the big screen. After playing roles in successfully released films, Airin is now on a steady path to being a popular star. In a recent interview with The Daily Star, the actor opens up about her life beyond the film sets.

How do you find yourself spending weekends?

AS: Whenever I have the day off, I spend it watching films, catching up with friends, and going out to eat. But when presented with the opportunity to enjoy a longer break, I like to leave the city or country for vacations.

What are you currently working on?

AS: Right now I am working on a film called "Gontobbo" directed by Aronno Palash. What makes the film very interesting is that I play two characters. The narrative centres on a theatre group who aspire to make a film about the iconic March 7 speech delivered by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and my character plays a role within that film. My character is also named Airin, and I play alongside Ferdous as his wife.

Is there an element of your life you greatly miss after becoming an actor?

AS: I miss school and university immensely. Even though I started out my career as a university student, those were carefree years where one could explore life.

What is it about winter that delights you most?

AS: Winter is a special season for me. I love vegetables, and I always excitedly look forward to the variety of produce we aren't able to see throughout the year. I also love date palm syrup.

Is there a country you've always wanted to visit, but haven't had the chance to?

AS: As someone who loves to travel, I find it hard to specifically name a country. My interest is piqued wherever I go, and each place has its own, incomparable charm.



"Want to put out a new shade with each film"

... Parineeti Chopra

She is just six years old in Hindi film industry and has been a part of nine films, and actor Parineeti Chopra says she prefers not to play repetitive characters. "Audiences are keen to see a performance, as much as they like watching the stars and larger-than-life films. So being able to deliver in different genres and tackle a variety of roles has more value. Personally, for me, repeating myself at this stage of my career would just be uninspiring. I like to challenge myself and put out a new shade with each film," Parineeti told IANS.



She was last seen on screen in the comic entertainer "Golmaal Again", which minted over Rs 200 crore in India. "As an actor, you want to have a great body of work, but I would be lying if I said the Rs 100 crore benchmark doesn't matter. It matters to every actor. It just shows how audiences are accepting you, how much they love you," she added.

Her next film project is Dibakar Banerjee's "Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar". Parineeti says Banerjee was always in the list of her "dream directors" ever since she started acting. "I have always been really fortunate to work with amazing directors. Dibakar has been on my dream directors' list ever since I took up acting. Working with him has involved elaborate prep and very focused workshops. He has an exquisite eye for nuance and detail," said the actor.

Whether it was "Ladies vs Ricky Bahl", "Ishaqzaade" and "Shuddh Desi Romance" or "Hasee Toh Phasee", "Daawat-e-Ishq" and "Meri Pyaari Bindu", Parineeti says when she plays a character, she tries to bring it alive with "human, believable traits and nuances".

Source: TOI

The Art of an Artistic Life

First solo exhibition of Zahangir Alom opens

DR. MALAY BALA (translated by MA Hye Milton)

When a human being is imbued with intellect and exuberance of life, when he or she delights in living life in its fullness, and revels constantly in gleaning the multifarious shades of diversities caused by the creative frenzy of Nature, his or her life and creative production become a part of the creative self of the Universe. This is exactly what happens in case of Zahangir Alom, a visual artist whose life as an individual and thoughts on life are no less than artistic. His relentless efforts have produced hundreds of paintings, out of which only a few have been selected for display in the exhibition titled "The Uncaged" at La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka.

Eminent artist Professor Rafiqun Nabi will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest today at 6pm. Professor Nisar Hossain, Dean, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka will be present as special guest while Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star will attend the opening ceremony as guest of honour. Bruno Plasse, Director, Alliance Française de Dhaka will welcome the distinguished guests and also preside over the ceremony.

The exhibition, open from Monday to Thursday from 3pm to 9pm and on Fridays and Saturdays from 9am to 12 noon and 5pm to 8pm, will conclude on December 15 with closing ceremony featuring music and dance performances.

Zahangir earnestly feels the music of the innermost recesses of the soul of the earth, water and forest. He tries to embody that music in his painting. In his choice of language or theme, he is not confined to Bangladesh. He endeavours to capture the experiences of his extensive travels as well as

to give imaginative expression to his intended journey across the world of natural beauties encompassing rivers, lands and waters.

In the early series of paintings capturing "Celestial view of earth from space," he drew these paintings with thick coloured dots to focus on land from the view of a flying bird and to illustrate the panoramic landscape of



rivers. He draws a lot of paintings with flowers, but they are not exactly like the flowers in reality. Here colour conveys the alluring capability of beauty. Driven by wanderlust, the artist celebrates the manifestations of nature, though it is not often a close-up view.

Though the paintings displayed in this

exhibition belong to different series of paintings, each of them has been named separately by the artist; and the narratives of their place, time and artistic feelings have been specifically recorded. In most of his works, he has used black with red, blue, yellow and orange colour in the same brightness.

In a word, Zahangir's paintings have been able to create a separate world in which the

beauties of Nature are observed with great passion and extolled in an absolutely uninhibited way.

The writer is Associate Professor at the Department of Oriental Painting in the Faculty of Fine Arts, DU and is the curator of the exhibition. The translator serves the Government of Bangladesh as Senior Assistant Secretary at the Security Services Division, Ministry of Home Affairs.