

WHAT'S ON

Group Painting Exhibition
 Title: Musings in Watercolor
 Venue: Edge Galleries, Gulshan-2
 Date: Nov 26-Dec 15
 Time: 10am-8pm

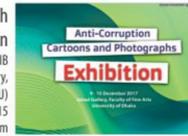


Solo Photography Exhibition
 In Limbo
 Photographer: Suman Paul
 Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
 Date: December 10-21
 Time: 9:30am-8pm



Cartoon and Photograph Exhibition
 Organiser: TIB
 Venue: Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts (DU)
 Date: Dec 9-15
 Time: 12-7pm

Anti-Corruption Cartoons and Photographs Exhibition



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Peace
 Artist: Proshanta Karmakar Buddha
 Venue: Gallery Cosmos
 Date: Dec 08-17
 Time: 12am-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: The Uncaged
 Artist: Zahangir Alom
 Venue: La Galerie, AFD, 26, Mirpur Road
 Date: Dec 1-15
 Time: Mon-Thurs (3-9pm), Fri-Sat (9am-12noon & 5-8pm)



Glorifying the indomitable spirit of the Liberation War

Shahabuddin Ahmed's latest exhibit in Paris

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Internationally-famous Bangladeshi artist Shahabuddin Ahmed's latest solo painting exhibition is now on at Galerie Daniel Besseiche in Paris, France. This is one of the world famous and prestigious galleries at the heart of Paris where master painters Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse and Marc Chagall held their solo exhibitions. The conscience and the indomitable spirit of the Liberation War have frequently appeared as prominent connotations on Shahabuddin's canvas. This exhibition is no exception of that. The Paris-based artist has been displaying 27 of his recent artworks in the show that was opened on July 31 and will continue until January 2018.

"Liberation War is my favourite subject on which I have been portraying paintings for years. My own style is also noticeable in the displayed works. Besides, I am showcasing



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

"Liberation War is my favourite subject on which I have been portraying paintings for years. My own style is also noticeable in the displayed works. Besides, I am showcasing portraits of famous political personalities like Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Mahatma Gandhi"

Portraits of famous personalities like Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi have displayed prominently at the show. I have witnessed many solo shows by the artist; but never watched such a fantastic show before. I marvelled at being in the gallery," said famous photographer Nasir Ali Mamun, who recently visited Shahabuddin in Paris.

Shahabuddin's paintings delve into the contemporary life and times. He is an optimist and this is evidently expressed in his paintings. Bold strokes, vibrant colours and figurative expressions are the hallmark of his works. He has the capability to overcome the constraints of time and space. In their dynamism his paintings depict fearless human figures that cut through the difficulties of life. The vibrancy and force of his brushwork highlights this aspect and create a strong sense of movement. Above all his compositions are unmistakably musical and rhythmic. Shahabuddin's figures seem to be enthralled in the cosmic dance at times merging with the ethereal forces.

The artist hoisted the Bangladeshi flag in erstwhile East Pakistan Radio at 11:30am on December 16, when the Pakistan army was yet to surrender. But, he knew what was going to happen. "This was the indomitable spirit and I kept that up. I take pride in that. I fought a nine-month battle of freeing my motherland. This is the glorious part of my life," said Shahabuddin Ahmed in a previous conversation with The Daily Star.

Shahabuddin's paintings are displayed in many prestigious galleries across the globe, including Museum Olympic Lausanne, Switzerland and Bourn-En Brasse Museum, France. Declared as one of the fifty Master Painters of Contemporary Arts, he was bestowed with an award at the Olympiad of Arts, Barcelona in 1992 and also awarded the French title Chevalier De L'ordre Des Arts Et Des Lettres (Knight in the Order of Fine Arts and Humanities) by the Ministry for Cultural Affairs and Communication of France in 2014. He also received Bangladesh's Shadhinata Padak in 2000 and Bangla Academy Award in 1974.

TV WATCH

Special TV programmes on Martyred Intellectuals' Day

A CORRESPONDENT

A special documentary titled "Chiro Unnoto Shir" will air today at 5:30pm on Deepto TV, marking Martyred Intellectuals' Day. Kishore Khandakar has written and directed the documentary, produced by Kazi Media Limited.

Ekushey Television will also air a documentary-based talk show titled "Gonohoty-71", at 10pm today. The programme has been produced by Ranjan Mallik.

Another talk show, titled "Tomader Ja Bolar Chhilo Bolechhe Ki Ta Bangladesh", will be broadcast on Desh TV. Produced by Moshir Rahman Khan Nibir and hosted by Shaheen Reza Noor, it will have the children of martyred intellectuals - Asif Munier, Saidur Rahman,

Rumana Shafi, Suman Jahid, Shomi Kaiser, Nuzhat Chowdhury, and Shaheed Buddhijib Parishad chairman Abu Musa M Masuduzzaman speak at the programme.

The Pakistani army selectively killed pro-liberation Bangladeshi intellectuals right from the March 25, 1971 'Operation Searchlight' throughout the nine months of the War, but only two days before their eventual surrender, the Pakistani army sensed their imminent defeat and carried out the heinous act of finding the top luminaries of this nation and killing them, with the assistance of Razakars, Al Shams and Al Badr. The day, December 14, is now observed as Martyred Intellectuals' Day across the country, to pay tribute to the brightest sons and daughters of the country.



NEWS bytes

Drake teases new music on the way

For the past few summers, US rapper Drake has been heating up charts with his dancehall-infused club numbers, and he may be cooking up some more tropical-tinged cuts to add to his extensive repertoire. Drake recently posted a picture of him and Nigerian artiste Tekno, a possible hint that new music from the two artistes could be arriving soon.

The photo was taken at what appears to be a restaurant as Tekno was in mid-conversation with Drake attentively listening. The pair continued to fuel speculation by posting a series of teasers like a screenshot



captured from Drake's Instagram Story, where Tekno is sitting at a soundboard in a studio, and a photo of Tekno shared of him and Drake captioned "B A S E D R O P".

Aside from a possible collaboration with Tekno, Drake also shared a photo of him and his Young Money mentor Lil Wayne reunited with the caption "D6", leaving many to wonder whether Drizzy will appear on Wayne's upcoming Christmas-release mixtape "Dedication 6".

Source: Billboard



James performs at the "Concert for ICT" at the Mall Chattrar of Dhaka University on Tuesday night. The concert was organised by the government's "Digital Bangladesh" initiative, marking national ICT day on December 12. Apart from James, Taposh & Friends and Spondon also performed at the concert which was attended by a large, energetic crowd.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

"The Post", "Shape of Water" lead Golden Globe nods

Nominations for the 75th annual Golden Globe Awards were announced late on Monday (Bangladesh time) on NBC's "Today" show live from the Beverly Hilton Hotel, reports Variety.

Guillermo del Toro's "The Shape of Water", Steven Spielberg's "The Post", and Martin McDonagh's "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" led nominations on the movie front. On the TV side, HBO's "Big Little Lies" picked up six nominations, while FX's "Feud: Bette and Joan" followed with four. " Fargo", "The Handmaid's Tale" and "This Is Us" all landed three nods.

Presenters Alfre Woodard, Garrett Hedlund, Kristen Bell, and Sharon Stone were joined by Golden Globe ambassador Simone Garcia Johnson, Hollywood Foreign Press Association president



Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep are both nominated for "The Post".

Meher Tatna, and Dick Clark Productions executive vice president of television Barry Adelman in revealing the nominees.

Seth Meyers will emcee the 2018 ceremony from the same location on January 7, which will air live on on NBC. The Best Picture - Drama category saw heavyweight contenders in "Call Me By Your Name" and "Dunkirk" apart from the aforementioned three, while the Best Picture - Comedy or Musical saw "The Disaster Artist", "Get Out", "The Greatest Showman", "I, Tonya" and "Lady Bird" in the running.

Timothee Chalamet ("Call Me by Your Name") was named in elite company in the Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Drama category, joined by Daniel Day-Lewis ("Phantom Thread"), Tom Hanks, ("The Post"), Gary Oldman ("Darkest Hour") and Denzel Washington, ("Roman J. Israel, Esq.") The Best Actress in the same category saw Jessica Chastain ("Molly's Game"), Sally Hawkins ("The Shape of Water"), Frances McDormand, ("Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri"), Meryl Streep ("The Post") and Michelle Williams ("All the Money in the World") being nominated.

The Best Director - Motion Picture race will see del Toro, McDonagh and Spielberg compete with Christopher Nolan ("Dunkirk") and Ridley Scott ("All The Money in the World").

Best TV Series - Drama nods are "The Crown", "Game of Thrones", "The Handmaid's Tale", "Stranger Things" and "This Is Us", while the Comedy category nominations are "Black-ish", "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel", "Master of None", "SMILF" and "Will & Grace".

Source: Variety

"A Different Romeo and Juliet" staged at BSA

ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

Taking centre-stage at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy's National Theatre Hall on Tuesday evening was a tragedy oft retold over centuries. The story of Romeo and Juliet -- young, star-crossed lovers torn apart by a history of family feuds -- has become the universal archetype for ill-fated romance. However, in a brilliant theatrical display titled "A Different Romeo and Juliet", a cast of differently-abled actors cleverly wove the powerlessness of the tragic lovers to their own fates.

The production was an initiative taken by The British Council Bangladesh, in association with Graeae Theatre Company, UK, and Dhaka Theatre from Bangladesh. Directed by Jenny Sealy and produced by Nasiruddin Yousuff, the actors are drawn from CRP Bangladesh, BRAC, the BRIDGE Foundation and Gram Theatre. The cast members include Rabbi Mia and Tayfur Rahman Roman (sign language) as Romeo, Shakila Jafar and Jannatul Ferdous Srity (sign language) as Juliet, as well as Md. Saddam Hossain, Afsaruddin Riyad, Md. Shariful Islam, Md. Mostafizur Rahman Sajal, Md. Murshed Miah, Mohammad Monir Hossain Sikder, Parveen Akter, Md. Sharif Hasan Chowdhury, Mohua Akter Mukta, Mur Islam Ripon, Md. Shaheb Ali, Baul Abdul Kafi and Sri Shantosh Chandra Barman in other roles.

The adaptation juxtaposes the Shakespearean masterpiece in a Bangladeshi reality. Set in modern-day Dhaka, the feuding Capulet and Montague family is replaced here by the Khans and Chowdhurys. The first

act opens to a cricket match between the Khan Elevens and Chowdhury Elevens, establishing their rivalry and desire to dominate the other, before taking us to a traditional Dhakaia wedding scene where Romeo meets Juliet for the first time, sealing their fates.

The most striking feature of the play, however, was the shadowing role of each character, save for the roles of Benvolio and Juliet's mother. Every scene and dialogue is simultaneously mirrored in sign language by another cast member

which the ardent Juliet famously ponders, "O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou, Romeo?" --is reversed as Juliet reclines upon the ground and Romeo ascends the elevated platform on the stage. The set design was kept simple, with only the elevated platform to enact the balcony scene, and a screen in a corner of the stage showing the lines delivered by the actors in text.

The most poignant moment arrived at the play's denouement, when the Khan and Chowdhury families recon-



Differently abled cast give a new angle to the tragedy.

playing the same role, making the play comprehensible for audibly-impaired viewers. With each member possessing a different ability, the mirroring actors assist each other to create beautiful, fluid transitions between actions.

The abilities of the cast members also resulted in other interesting depictions straying from the original narrative. The balcony scene in

ciled over the bodies of Romeo and Juliet. Juliet's mother then turned to the audience and asked, "Are they not people? Do we not love? Don't we have the desire to be loved?"

The sadness is palpable as the play draws us out of the Shakespearean narrative, and leads us to examine the plight of the differently-abled in our society.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED