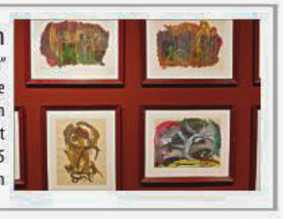
WHAT'S ON

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Peace by Shahabuddin Ahmed
Venue: Gallery 2, National Art Gallery, BSA
Date: Mar 19- Apr 18
Time: 11am-8pm

Installation Exhibition
71 er Borborota
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: Mar 26-31
Time: 5:30pm-9pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Grey Contours
Artist: Soma Surovi Jannat
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Date: Mar 23-April 5
Time: 3-9pm

Painting exhibition
Title: "Chitrer Dibbowroth"
Artist: Syed Shamsul Haque
Organiser: Bengal Foundation
Venue: Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct
Date: Mar 23-April 5
Time: 12 noon- 8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Drawing & Thinking, Thinking & Drawing
Artist: Dhali Al Mamoon
Venue: Kala Kendra
Date: Mar 10-31; Time: 5-8pm

NEWS *bytes*

Sandler, Aniston reunite for "Murder Mystery"

Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston are laughing all the way to the bank, again. Variety reports that Sandler will reunite with his "Just Go With It" co-star on Netflix's comedy "Murder Mystery".

"Workaholics" co-creator Kyle Newacheck is on board to direct from a script by James Vanderbilt.

The story follows a New York cop (Sandler) and his wife (Aniston), who become prime suspects in the murder of an elderly billionaire while vacationing in Europe.

Sandler and Aniston, according to insiders, had been looking for an opportunity to work together again following the 2011 success of "Just Go With It", which earned $103 million at the domestic box office, $215 million globally.

"Murder Mystery" marks Sandler's sixth feature project at Netflix, while it is Aniston's first time working with the streaming giant. She's also attached to star in a new Apple TV series opposite Reese Witherspoon.

Besides her highly-anticipated series at Apple, Aniston most recently appeared in Iraq war drama "The Yellow Birds" and can be seen next in Gem Entertainment's musical comedy "Dumplin".

Source: **Variety**

Visit to the 12th Art Dubai

A visual and sensory eye-opener

TEHMINA ENAYET

I recently paid my third annual visit to the 12th Art Dubai expo in Dubai, UAE, which is slowly claiming its stake as a global art hub.

It was held from March 21-24 at the wonderful Madinat Jumeirah, under Myrna Ayad and featured 78 galleries' artworks from 42 countries.

The writer at the Art Fair.

The participating galleries were categorised as Contemporary, Modern and Residents, with Residents being the new addition this year. The works presented included painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, video, photography and performance.

Dubai Culture & Arts Authority (Dubai Culture) was the strategic partner this year and supported the fair's year-round education programme, under the watchful patronage of Sheikha Latifa Bint Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-Chairman of Dubai Culture.

As the daughter of Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, she has successfully supervised the vast expansion and modernisation Dubai's cultural scene is gradually going through.

The fair boasted an extensive display of 20th century masters from across the globe, as part of Dubai Culture's ongoing Dubai Art Season 2018.

It is an excellent initiative which houses a culture of imagination and creativity, showcasing a wide array of innovative projects, both regional and global. All the top artists, critics and collectors gathered under one roof to witness what Art Dubai had to offer.

I was particularly fascinated by a performance under the Global Art Forum, titled "I Am Not A Robot", which explored the impact of automation, artificial intelligence and the rise of machines through open conversations and panel discussions.

A programme designed for children, the Sheikha Manal Little Artists Programme, was also worth witnessing as it was Art Dubai's non-commercial programme designed for children and teenagers by international and UAE-based artists, designed to encourage young ones to involve themselves in the art.

Another noteworthy feature was a tour by Swiss luxury watchmaker Piaget, naming it "Sunlight Journey" at the Madinat Jumeirah. Marking their third showcase at Art Dubai, Piaget presented their latest high jewelry and watch-making collection.

Despite being touted as Middle East's premier art fair, Asia had a pretty strong display this year.

One thing that Bangladesh and myself can particularly be proud of is that Dubai-based The Third Line also sold out all works at a solo presentation from 2017 Abraaj Group Art Prize winner Rana Begum. Most of the pieces by the Bangladeshi artist apparently sold on the first day of the fair, with prices ranging from US$8,300 to US$35,000.

Overall, the early take-away from this year's Art Dubai is that it is a fair comfortable in its niche as a regional leader.

Tehmina Enayet is Director at Gallery Cosmos.

"Shape of Water" comes to Dhaka

Three new Hollywood titles at Cineplex

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Guillermo del Toro's "The Shape of Water", which was the big winner at this year's big winner at the Oscars – taking home Best Film, Best Director, Best Original Score and Best production Design – has finally landed on the big screen in Dhaka. Star Cineplex, the country's first multiplex theatre, just released the critically-acclaimed title starring Sally Hawkins, Doug Jones, Michael Shannon and Octavia Spencer, along with two other recent big Hollywood films.

"Ready Player One", Steven Spielberg's latest sci-fi adventure film, also got a release this Friday, almost simultaneously with its wide US release. The film, set in the VR-heavy future world of 2045, stars Tye Sheridan playing the protagonist, along with Olivia Cooke, Ben Mendelsohn, TJ Miller, Simon Pegg and Mark Rylance in other roles, is set for a big weekend in the US box office as well.

The other release is Alicia Vikander-starrer "Tomb Raider", the rebooted film adaptation of the vastly popular adventure video game. Vikander plays the archaeologist Lara Croft, with Dominic West, Walton Goggins, Daniel Wu, and Kristin Scott Thomas in supporting roles. The film released in the US on March 16, and has grossed over $200 million in its first two weeks.

Aside from the Hollywood titles, a new Bangla film – Aka Reza Ghalib's "Kaler Putul" starring Ferdous, Lutfur Rahman George and others in the cast was also released on Friday at the multiplex. The other local title currently on the showtime schedule are BIjon Imtiaz's "Mati'r Proja'r Deshe", along with Hollywood blockbusters "Black Panther" and "Pacific Rim: Uprising".

A still from "The Shape of Water".

Ajoy Sen Chowdhury exhibits at Chittagong

AMIR HASAN SHAHRIAR, *Chittagong*

A solo painting exhibition by Ajoy Sen Chowdhury was inaugurated at Chittagong Shilpakala Academy at Mehedibag on Thursday evening.

The exhibition, titled "Ronge Chholchhol Jochhonar Jol" showcases 35 artworks at the Shilpachrya Zainul Abedin auditorium at the academy.

This is the artist's second solo exhibition in the city since 1993. The first exhibition was based on watercolour, while the painter has dipped his brush in acrylic for this one.

The themes of Ajay's painting range from his interpretation of six seasons of Bangladesh on the canvas to the river, urban lifestyle to love and even conflict of mankind.

About this, the artist said, "I was brought up at Sadarghat area if Chittagong, where I saw people of varied culture and professions. The Karnaphuli River at one side, the jetty, the fisherman… all the natural scenarios merged with the city bustle in the area. This is the main inspiration of my works to this day."

An opening ceremony of the exhibition was held at the open stage of Shilpakala, where dancers of Odissi and Tagore Dance Movement Centre performed. Abdus Salam, Chairman of Chittagong Development Authority inaugurated the exhibition where writer and artiste Syed Iqbal was the chief guest.

Visitors at the exhibition. PHOTO: **STAR**

In his speech, Syed Iqbal reminded the audience to pay proper remuneration to the artists of the country, and said artistes like Ajoy Sen should be cherished.

"His works should be seen by the audiences across the country. But being a shy and introverted person, Ajoy seems to stick to Chittagong all the time," said Syed Iqbal, urging the artist to move with his work to other parts of the country also.

The programme ended with a colourful performance by the organisation 'Amra Ekush'.

The exhibition, continuing from 5pm to 9pm, ends today.

Emon signs short film in Kolkata

A CORRESPONDENT

Dhallywood actor Emon is setting out for new waters, as he has just signed a short film in India's Kolkata, which is set to go on floors soon.

Titled "Cinemar Pordar SHob Choritro Kalponik", the principal photography of the short will begin on April 6 and go on for about a week. It is being directed by Krish.

"I have been to Kolkata a number of times to shoot commercials, but this time it's for a film so that's exciting," the actor told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, Emon is working on a film titled "Sahoshi Joddha" back home. Directed by Sadek Siddiqui, it casts Shirin Shila opposite him. He also has films "Shrabon Tomar" and "Siddhanto" in the pipeline.

Katrina's sister Isabelle Kaif set for Bollywood debut

Bollywood star Katrina Kaif's sister Isabelle is all set for her second film and Bollywood debut in the true sense, according to Hindustan Times.

Making the announcement, Sooraj Pancholi shared a picture of Isabelle and confirmed that she is the lead heroine in his upcoming film "Time To Dance". Isabelle reportedly plays a ballroom and Latin dancer while Sooraj essays the role of a street dancer.

Isabelle was last seen in "Dr Cabbie", an English language film that was produced by Salman Khan.

The film, that will mark Stanley D'costa's directorial debut, is set to go on floors in second half of April in London. Both Sooraj and Isabelle have been practicing for their roles over past one year and have learnt various dance forms.

A report in Mumbai Mirror quoted Isabelle as saying, "I can't wait to start work on my first Hindi film. We will be in London for around 50 days and will shoot in a start-to-finish schedule."

"I started dancing as a kid, so I always wanted to be a performing artiste. I always had that creative side. Acting came little later and it actually came when I saw dancing in the films. That's when I knew that I always want to do this," Isabelle had earlier said.

Source: **Hindustan Times**