

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



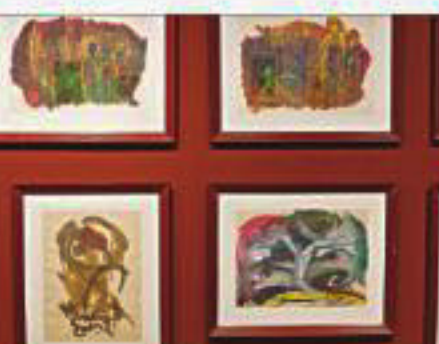
**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Life in Mirror  
 Artist: Jahangir Hossain  
 Venue: DD Gallery, Saltz, 8, Gulshan  
 Date: Mar 30-Apr 13  
 Time: 12 noon-9pm



**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: "Chitrea Dibboroth"  
 Artist: Syed Shamsul Haque  
 Organizer: Bengal Foundation  
 Venue: Daily Star- Bengal Arts Precinct  
 Date: Mar 23-April 5  
 Time: 12 noon-8pm



**Concert**  
 Kaansuta - Ek Nirhar-er Gaan  
 Organizer: Gaanshala  
 Artists: Armeen, Arko, Joyeeta  
 Venue: Chhayanaut  
 Date: Apr 6; Time: 6:30pm



## NEWS bytes

### Drake teases upcoming project

Hip-hop icon Drake boldly returned to music with his "Scary Hours" EP in January, setting the stage for his untitled forthcoming album. And now, with "God's Plan" entering its tenth week atop the Billboard Hot 100, it's been all eyes on Drizzy.

The 30-year-old rapper continues to feed the hype machine by dropping subtle hints toward the anticipated project, according to Billboard. On Sunday, he posted an Instagram story of his tired self that read, "You can see the album hours under my eyes."



While the photo indicates that the Toronto native is hard at work in the studio on his next project, there's been a dearth of information available regarding when it could possibly see the light of day. The "Take Care" rapper hopped into a recent Instagram live session with Murda Beatz on March 21, where he revealed to viewers that the scorching producer would be behind the boards for his next single.

Source: Billboard

# Sunnydale students stage BALMIKI PRATIBHA

ROKON SHAHRIAR

*As the red curtain rises, you find yourself in Ratnakar's forest densely filled with trees wildly entangled by creeping plants. You would panic at the look of the terrifying robbers of scary getup. Only by close observation do you realize that the robbers were little children, because they are section one students of Sunnydale School who performed "Balmiki Pratibha", the first dance drama written by Rabindranath Tagore. The show took place on April 2 at the main auditorium of the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.*

The play started after the inauguration, with lighting of candles by Chief Guest HT Imam, Political Advisor to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina accompanied by the school's principal Tahzin Ahmed. "It was a mind-blowing performance that made me extremely happy" said HT Imam after watching the one-hour play. He said he was amazed by the spontaneous performance of a difficult Bangla musical dance drama by the young students of an English medium school, which changed his preconceived idea about the English medium culture as a whole. Imam thanked the students, and congratulated Zarin Zara in the role of Balmiki for her fantastic performance and Mir Farian Mehbub for his excellent presentation as the anchor. Moved by the remarks of the Chief Guest, Principal Tahzin Ahmed said that there is a prejudice in the society against English medium education sector, but it has probably passed the acid test now. "The school



The young students put up a thoroughly enjoyable performance.

has a culture of observing special days including Independence Day, Victory Day, International Mother Language Day, Pahela Baishakh and so on, and we do not spare any national occasions," she said. She thanked the participating students of middle section one, which is second to fifth grade, for their hard work and their guardians for their wholehearted cooperation. She also expressed gratitude to the teachers and staff of the school for their efforts to make the programme successful. "Balmiki Pratibha" is a dance drama that musically tells the story of Ratnakar, a thug who transformed himself into sage Balmiki, who composed the Hindu epic Ramayana. One night, robber Ratnakar and his comrades captured a girl to be sacrificed before goddess Kali. The girl's crying, however, melted Balmiki's heart and he released her. Gradually he lost interest in cruelty and began to wander in

the forest until one day he saw a hunter killing two innocent love birds. He uttered a curse for the hunter that happened to come out in Sangsrit, the language of gods that he never learnt. Balmiki renounced Kali when he found forest nymphs worshipping an image of Saraswati, the goddess of wisdom. He also refused the approach of Laksmi, the goddess of fortune. His penance was rewarded and Saraswati appeared before him in the image of the girl he had released before. The goddess offered him the veena and blessed him with music. The Sunnydale presentation of the drama was directed by Swati Sarkar, dance being directed by Agnes Rachel Paris, drama directed by Mitul Rahman, music arranged by Nirupam Swarna, and total coordination done by Zebunnesa Mahmud. The drama accommodated 33 students in dance section and 21 in background voice.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## ASK ME ANYTHING

### SWAPNAJAAL team on The Daily Star Facebook Live today!

A CORRESPONDENT  
 Today's the day! The April edition of "Ask Me Anything", The Daily Star's monthly Facebook Live show will feature not one, not two but three guests, building up the hype to the upcoming film "Swapnajaal". Director Giasuddin Selim and the two central cast members - Dhallywood heart-throb Pori Moni and the fresh face Yash Rohan will join the Facebook fans of The Daily Star in a candid, live chat at 5pm this afternoon. The trio will talk directly to you all and respond to your question in comments. "Swapnajaal", Giasuddin Selim's return to the big screen as director after nine years, is already creating considerable buzz among film lovers of the country. The film, which also casts Fazlur Rahman Babu, Iresh Zaker, Misha Sawdagar, Shahidul Alam Sachchu and Shilpi Sarkar Opu among others, is set for release across the country on April 6, and fans of the director, particularly those who loved his directorial debut "Monpura", cannot wait for the film to land in theatres. Pour in your questions, curiosities, love and adulation of "Swapnajaal" for Pori, Selim and Rohan, and tune in to facebook.com/dailystarnews sharp at 5pm to catch the trio live!



# First ever Bangladesh art exhibition opens in Netherlands

"Shades of Passion", the first ever art exhibition by 40 Bangladeshi artists in The Netherlands was inaugurated at the Atrium City Hall of The Hague on March 30, says a press release. Deputy Mayor of The Hague, Rabin Baldewsingh was the chief guest of the ceremony, while eminent artist from Bangladesh Rafiqun Nabi was the guest of honour. Nabi was accompanied by two other young compatriots, Dr. Mohammad Iqbal Ali and Pradyut Kumar Das. A total of 40 paintings of Bangladeshi artists and two paintings by Anika Ahmed, a Bangladeshi expat artist based in the Netherlands are on display. The exhibition is organised by the Embassy of Bangladesh in The Hague, Ministry of Cultural Affairs of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. More than 100 guests gathered at the opening ceremony. In his opening remarks, Sheikh Mohammed Belal, Ambassador of Bangladesh to The Netherlands cited the great contribution of artists in connecting societies and countries across borders. He highlighted that contemporary generations of Bangladeshi artists are continuing the legacy of pioneers Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin and Patua Quamrul Hassan. He further stated that Bangladesh was honoured by an opportunity to exhibit art works in



Guests at the inaugural ceremony cut a ceremonial ribbon to open the exhibition.

the Netherlands, a country of world renowned artists like Rembrandt, Vermeer and Van Gogh who are an inspiration for artists of all ages. Ambassador Belal, referring to Rafiqun Nabi's immortal creation of "Tokai", urged all to do their bit to stand up against growing inequality and injustice in the society. Rafiqun Nabi presented how

contemporary arts are evolving in Bangladesh and how our contemporary artists are adding a new dimension to this ancient form art. Rabin Baldewsingh, Deputy Mayor of The Hague congratulated Bangladesh for organising the Bangladesh Art Exhibition in the Netherlands for the very first time. He mentioned that as a nation the

Dutch are connoisseurs of art and culture. Indeed, this is a unique opportunity to exhibit the resilience and serenity of Bangladesh in The Netherlands, he said, adding that this exhibition would further strengthen the bonds of two countries. The exhibition will continue till April 13.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Bangladesh Film Development Committee (BFDC) and the Cholocchitro Poribar, an umbrella organization of film professionals, celebrated the National Film Day yesterday at the BFDC premises through separate programmes.

# Rey and Finn will reunite in STAR WARS: EPISODE IX

In noteworthy but not exactly surprising news, the third and final film of the new "Star Wars" trilogy will see the two main heroes back together again, reports Collider.

One of the major points of anticipation for "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" was seeing the new characters that JJ Abrams was introducing to the Star Wars universe. Chief among them was Rey (played by Daisy Ridley), the protagonist of this new trilogy, and Finn (John Boyega), a former stormtrooper who turns his life around. "The Force Awakens" was very much about the relationship between Rey and Finn as the "new heroes", in some scenes echoing the thoughts and feelings of Star Wars

fans themselves. But in last year's sequel, "The Last Jedi", the heroes were torn apart. While the storytelling format of introducing characters, splitting them apart and reuniting them is not exactly new, it proved frustrating for fans in "The Last Jedi", as Rey and Finn didn't have much screen-time together at all. By the film's end, Rey and Finn are seen back together, and Boyega confirmed at AwesomeCon that "Star Wars: Episode IX" will feature plenty of Rey/Finn action. "I haven't read the script for Episode 9. But Daisy did shoot me a text saying, 'Oh my gosh, I just heard from JJ [Abrams], and we're back together.' That's what I'm really excited about,

is Finn and Rey back together again." The split during "The Last Jedi" may have been frustrating, but the payoff in "Episode IX" promises to be well worth it. Each character had to go off on his or her own to learn a lesson, as Finn's Canto Bight adventures with Rose (Kelly Marie Tran) served to broaden his horizons and provide him with a greater understanding of the world at large. And Rey's journey with Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) and Kylo Ren (Adam Driver) strengthened her resolve and enriched her understanding of the Jedi, something that culminated in her herculean rock move at the end of "The Last Jedi".

Source: Collider

