

Contemporary Art Exhibition
 Title: Silent Revelation
 Artist: Mohammad Iqbal
 Venue: Edge Galleries (Dhanmondi & Gulshan)
 Date: April 22-May 5



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: From the Pages of Memory
 Artist: Azmeer Hossain
 Venue: Shilpakala Gallery, Dhanmondi
 Date: Apr 16-30
 Time: 3-8pm



Group Exhibition
 Title: Commemoration
 Venue: Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts
 Date: April 20-30
 Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: Illusion of Colour by Iskindar Mirza
 Venue: La Galerie, AFD, Dhaka
 Date: Apr 13-24
 Time: 3-9pm (Mon-Thurs) & 9am-12noon 8.5-8pm (Fri-Sat)



Solo Photography Exhibition
 Title: Photoem by Nasir Ali Mamun
 Venue: Nalini Kanta Bhattasali Gallery, BNM
 Date: Apr 10-May 3



ZAHANGIR ALOM

Portraying peace as protest to war

Mohammad Iqbal's "Silent Revelations" opens today

Narrative art is a genre of art that tells a complete story, either as a moment in an ongoing story or as a sequence of events unfolding over time. Renowned artist Mohammad Iqbal's socio-political consciousness coupled with his thoughts on environmental issues is lucid and coherent. His art reflects his concerns about the turmoil of world politics and war that of which children are the most-affected victim. In recent years, Iqbal's favourite subject has become children that he regards neglected and mistreated. Their emotional eyes create the Golden Sections of his paintings that express surprise, pain, puzzlement, panic and longing for the good days to come.

The artist's 42nd solo exhibition, titled "Silent Revelations", opens today at 6pm at the Courtyard, Edge Gallery, Dhanmondi. The exhibition will feature around 50 recent works by the artist. Organised by Edge the Foundation, "Silent Revelations" will be simultaneously exhibited at both Edge Galleries -- Gulshan and The Courtyard at Park Heights, Dhanmondi. Both galleries remain open every day from 10am to 8pm, exhibiting from April 22 till May 5.

According to Iqbal, children are the worst victims of war. They are vulnerable to the endangered environmental issues created by the greedy manufacturers.

"I saw a dead child's innocent face gleaming through a destructed building of Gaza in a newspaper. Children are not safe in Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq or any war-torn area of the world. I don't want to uphold the destruction and death of war; rather as protest to the war, I depict the innocent faces of the children. Their emotional gazes seek for peace. As an artist, I want a peaceful world where any dispute can be resolved peacefully," said Mohammad Iqbal.

The artist follows a scientific method called gesso to prepare his canvases. He coats his canvas, mingling Arabic gum, water and linseed oil in equal propor-



tion to prevent fungus.

Mohammad Iqbal's oil paintings have become a hallmark of his own, featuring eight to ten layers of colours. Dots are the signature style of the artist, who puts them on empty space of the canvas to denote the imaginary icon of the non-visual agents that cause environmental pollution. "I complete every painting with a lot of time embellishing each portion of the painting with dots and thin lines. I use pointed needles and thin brushes to do the job, which is time-consuming and requires utmost patience. Every dot and line meaningfully appears in my canvas," explains the artist.

Iqbal also has a great reverence for the Bauls, a group of mystic minstrels of the country. Many of his characters on canvas are usually saints, spiritualists, exploited people

and mystic bards. Iqbal emerged in the country's art scene in the 1990s essentially with this potent philosophical theme. At his current exhibition, Iqbal focuses on a number of themes. He gives us a novel look into every one of his solo exhibitions held in different periods of time.

Mohammad Iqbal is a prominent contemporary artist based in Dhaka and Tokyo. He is an Associate Professor at the Department of Drawing and Painting, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka. He has held many exhibitions and received numerous awards from both home and abroad, such as Atish Dipankar Gold Medal in Fine Arts (2015), Nomura Grand Award (2010), Aoki Shigeru Grand Prize (2005), City Mayor Award (2005) and National and Young Artists Award by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Jatiyo Nazrul Sammelan begins in Nilphamari

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

The three-day long Jatiyo Nazrul Sammelan was inaugurated at the local Shilpakala academy in the northern district town of Nilphamari on April 19 amid enthusiasm, through recitation of the iconic verse "Bolo Bir, Bolo Unnoto Momo Shir" from the Rebel poet's "Bidrohi".

Khilkhil Kazi, granddaughter of Kazi Nazrul Islam and also member of Kazi Nazrul Islam trustee board, inaugurated the festival by flying colourful balloons and releasing white pigeons in sky at 10am on Thursday, as the audience burst into applause.

Deputy Commissioner of Nilphamari Khaled Rahim presided over by inaugural ceremony, which was attended by local educationists and public representatives. In her inaugural speech, Khilkhil Kazi paid deep homage to father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"Bangabandhu brought the Rebel poet along with family to Bangladesh in 1972 with much affection and care, and rendered the highest honour by declaring him National Poet," she said.

"Nazrul teaches us to stand upright with dignity, overcoming odds and evil," she affirmed.

Khilkhil Kazi continued saying "At the

time of Liberation War, Nazrul's songs and poems inspired freedom fighters as well as the whole nation, leading to creation of independent Bangladesh."

On the occasion, the first ever in the district, the festival venue was nicely decorated and a display board was set up at the entrance manifesting photographs of Nazrul at different stages of life.

Earlier, executive director of Nazrul Institute Dhaka, Md Abdur Razzak Bhuiyan in his welcome speech said, "In terms of correctly practicing Nazrul's songs and poem, there are problems in tunes, pronunciations or words and those would be discussed here."

After the inauguration and formal discussion, the houseful audience was entertained with performances by renowned Nazrul singer Fatema Tuz Zohra, Nashid Kamal, Jannatul Islam Kabir while artists of Nazrul Institute Dhaka in collaboration with local artistes rendered chorus songs.

Secretary of Kabi Nazrul Institute Dhaka and project director Md Abdur Rahim thanked all for making the festival successful. Deputy Commissioner Khalid Rahim in his speech urged all to spread the spirit of Nazrul's literature far and wide.

In the afternoon, a discussion session was held on "Communal Harmony and Nazrul, where poet Habibullah Siraji was the main speaker. In the evening, a cultural function followed.



Artistes perform songs on the opening day of the music conference.

PHOTO: STAR

Nusraat Faria on "Choturongo"

A CORRESPONDENT

News-based satellite channel DBC News will have celebrated film actor Nusraat Faria, along with music composer Pritam Hasan, on their weekly show "Choturongo" at 11pm. The show features guests from the arts and entertainment field.

Faria is awaiting her debut as a singer, with the song "Pataka" coming out soon. Pritom Hasan has collaborated with Faria for the song, the trailer of which is scheduled to come out today.

"Choturongo", which is broadcast live, is hosted by Mazumder Jewel, Shovon Aref and Fahmida Shampa, and directed by Suman Saha.



TV WATCH

"Ora Thake Odhare" on Deepto TV

A CORRESPONDENT

New daily soap "Ora Thake Odhare" began last week on Deepto TV, airing Saturday to Thursday at 6pm and 8:30pm. Written by Ahmed Khan Hirok and directed by Habib Masud and Firoz Kabir Dollar, it casts Punam Jui, Khairul Alam Sabuj, Monira Mithu, Sudeep, Shelly Ahsan and others.

The story revolves around the young and beautiful girl Tathoi, who dreams of scaling the Everest after her graduation. Her family fixes her marriage with expat businessman Rajb, but a new mysterious friend of hers, Akash, convinces her that Rajib is a dishonest man. The wedding is cancelled but Tathoi and her family loses the house and has to move to a broken-down one outside the city. There, supernatural things begin to happen.

Busy times ahead for Tama Mirza

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National Film Award-winning actor Tama Mirza has recently signed up for a new movie. Titled "Guptochor", shooting is slated to commence from next month.

Directed by Shahed Chowdhury, Tama Mirza will don the role of a private investigator. Co-star Zayed Khan will also portray a detective, playing her partner in the film.

Regarding her role, Tama Mirza stated, "This is a new character for me, and it will be quite challenging to bring her to life on screen. I am quite looking forward to it."

This month is looking to be quite fruitful for the actor, who will also begin filming for "Kaathgoraye Saratchandra" at the end of this month. Nirob is slated to work alongside her in it.

For the last few years, Tama Mirza has been enjoying a successful career as a film actor. Her performance in "Nodijon" earned her accolades and the National Film Award as Best Actor.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Theatre troupe Swapnadal staged their acclaimed play "Helen Keller" at the Experimental Theatre Hall of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on April 19. The mono-drama is written by Apurba Kumar Kundu and directed by Zahid Repon, and casts Juyena Shabnam. The play is based on the life of remarkable American author, activist and teacher Helen Keller, the first deaf-blind woman to earn a bachelor of arts degree.



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