

Mohammad Iqbal's solo exhibit opens in Japan

Holbein Gallery, Osaka, Japan has organised the 43rd solo painting exhibition titled *Humiliation* by renowned Bangladeshi artist, Mohammad Iqbal. The exhibition was inaugurated on May 21 and will remain open until May 26. Mohammad Iqbal, an Associate Professor at the Department of Drawing and Painting, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka, has also conducted a three-day art workshop at the programme.

ZAHANGIR ALOM
Mohammad Iqbal is a dedicated painter in the contemporary Bangladeshi art scene. The

backgrounds of most of his compositions feature abstract forms, soothing colours and mellow tones. For the ongoing show, the artist is exhibiting around 30 paintings on



several media like oil, acrylic, pastel and ink on canvas and *washi* (Japanese paper).

According to Iqbal, children are the worst victims of war. In recent years, Iqbal's favourite subject has been mistreated and neglected children. In his paintings, Iqbal brings out their emotional eyes that express surprise, pain, puzzlement, panic and longing for the good days to come.

In Japan there is an idiom, "The eyes are as eloquent as the mouth." Most of the viewers are attracted to the significant eyes of people painted by the artist. Moreover, many of them asked him about the background of creating such profound

artworks, according to the gallerist H. Maeda.

Mohammad Iqbal's oil paintings have become a hallmark of his own, featuring eight to ten layers of colours. He puts them on empty space of the canvas to denote the imaginary icon of the non-visual agents that cause environmental pollution.

Mohammad Iqbal is a MONBUSHO Scholar. He has obtained PhD in Oil Painting, from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts, Japan. His paintings have been exhibited in many renowned galleries of Japan and Bangladesh.



A darker take on 'The Jungle Book'

Since the 1967 classic first came out, there have been many adaptations of *The Jungle Book* over the years, including Disney's live-action retelling of the beloved masterpiece in 2016.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK
This time, actor and director Andy Serkis is offering another one to audiences, out on October 19. The film has a stellar cast, including Benedict Cumberbatch, Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett, and Freida Pinto.
Serkis' film, *Mowgli*, stands out from the other versions of the classic tale. It promises to be a darker and grittier take on the story than its predecessors. As shown in the first trailer, the story will focus on how the protagonist Mowgli grapples with being an outcast trying to find his place in the world- not quite fitting in with the humans or animals. Characters such as Sher Khan look as menacing as ever while Bagheera, Baloo and the wolves look marvelously realistic. So, this version of *The Jungle Book* will be something to look forward to this year.

BEHIND THE SCENES

What happened to Monalisa?

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Stepping into the shooting house, I was held back at the site of an ailing Monalisa on a wheel chair. As she looked unusually frail, I could not help but enquire the director, Ashfaq Nipun, about her appearance. He immediately comforted me saying that it was a requirement for her role in the tele-fiction titled *Hoyto Tomar Kachhei Jabo*, where the renowned model stars alongside famed actor Apurba.

Monalisa plays a character that leads a happy life and suffers from a sudden stroke, which leaves her paralysed. Everyone seemed preoccupied at the set, some were busy running with the cameras and others were busy adjusting the lights. Ashfaq Nipun, who is also behind the story and the script, seemed busy preparing for the next shot, while the actors were getting their touch-ups from the makeup artists. During her 'powder and lipstick' session, Monalisa became slightly nostalgic as she recalled and discussed with Apurba, all the good times she spent in the USA. He too was able to recollect a handful of memories from his trip to the USA with his family. As the conversation became more 'American', the director interposed and explained the dialogues. The actors began to mumble in their own tone to brush up on what they had to say. After a while, we could hear the director's call that it was time to shoot. No sooner, the stars were on the set and ready to shine.

"Action!" As the shoot began, someone's phone rang to interrupt an intense scene. Even though we know that prevention is better than cure, the damage was already done. So, after a retake and moments of phones being on silent, the scenes continued with smoothness as the cameras rolled to the director's contentment. By the time it came to an end, I learnt that the tele-fiction is slated for broadcast on Banglavisión during Eid. As they packed up, both Monalisa and Apurba were delighted to work together after a long time. On a final note, they both seemed rather optimistic about the emotional story of the tele-fiction.



Ariana Grande's message for fans a year after Manchester tragedy



In May 2017, a suicide bomber killed twenty two people in an Ariana Grande concert at the Manchester Arena situated in Manchester, England. Ariana Grande is an American singer and actor who began her career in 2008. People from all walks of life attended the ill-fated concert. In the aftermath, Grande helped organise the "One Love Manchester" benefit concert for the victims. The concert was hugely successful.

This year marks the one year anniversary of Manchester Arena bombing and Ariana Grande remembers the day with a heartfelt message on her twitter account. She writes ---

"Thinking of you all today and every day. I love you with all of me and am sending you all of the light and warmth I have to offer on this challenging day".

Source: Rolling Stone

Fair play for football and fiction fans

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

This year, it will be hard to choose between watching the World Cup and the special television shows for Eid. Worry no more as there is an Eid telefilm that promises to entertain everyone.

Celebrated actors Zahid Hassan, Chanchal Chowdhury and Tisha will be seen together on the small-screen this Eid in Abu Hayat Mahmud's *Fair Play*.

The story of this tele-fiction focuses on football. According to Chanchal Chowdhury, the audience will really like *Fair Play*, as right now they are all immensely excited for the World Cup. Chowdhury will portray the role of a Brazil fan in the tele-fiction, while Zahid Hassan will be seen donning an Argentina jersey.

The three actors said that they have had a delightful time shooting for *Fair Play*.



MUNNA BHAII 3 is coming soon



The 'Munna Bhai' series, starring Sanjay Dutt and Arshad Warsi is undoubtedly one of the most popular franchises of Bollywood. After the success of *Munna Bhai MBBS* and *Lage Raho Munna Bhai*, Rajkumar Hirani has confirmed that he will soon begin working on *Munna Bhai 3*, for which his fans are eagerly waiting. Sanjay Dutt is going to be an integral part of it this time as well. The actor, in a video by Pinkvilla has announced that *Munna Bhai 3* is all set to be made.

Source: Times of India