

RECOMMENDATIONS



Exhibition

March 8-15
Drik Gallery holds exhibition of 'Feminist Cartoons' for the first time in the country.

Thailand through my eyes

March 1-10
Bengal Gallery of Fine arts is holding a photography exhibition by Dr Rashid Un Nabi titled, 'Thailand through my eyes' at 6:30p.m.

Concert

March 10
Goethe Institut presents a musical concert by Stefan Hussaong and Michael Suoboda.

Exhibition

March 2-16
The Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University and the Embassy of Japan is jointly holding a painting exhibition by Bangladeshi artists who studied in Japan.

Tribute

Chand Dubey Gelo

The hero is silent forever

DR HALIMA KHATUN

MY heart aches and the hearts of the whole nation is full of sorrow because of the sudden death of my hero -- Golam Mustafa, called Chand at home.



Golam Mustafa

PHOTO: NASIR ALI MAMUN

Shakespeare always reminds me;
'Life's but a walking shadow,
...It is a tale told by an idiot
Full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing"

I do agree with Shakespeare, but in the case of Mustafa, perhaps I differ. His life was full to the brim. His was a brilliant life, a colourful epic, a tale of mastermind, alight house. I just can't express what was he. An evergreen forest or an everflowing river with all its beauty and creativity.

As Picasso once said, "I don't search, I find."

About Chand, I boldly assert that, for acting and re-acting, citing and reciting, he never searched. He found unexpectedly every expression, pause, joy and sorrow, fault and folly at the tip of his finger, so to say.

Though not a media-worshipper, I was always in the first row of his appreciators. 'Raja' in 'Rakto-Karabi', the hero in 'Mukhor Romoni Boshikaran', the silent wor-

shipper of 'Borodidi', the cunning Suresh in 'Grihodaho' are some of the mighty examples of his superb performances in TV plays. None can forget Mustafa in these rolls. 'Perfect' in the adjective that can be indelibly inscribed over the plague proclaiming the merits of his acting. In the early years of his career, he captured the movie screen as a villain, but very very successful villain. The film 'Chanda' proclaims that a villain can be more attractive than the hero.

In the later years, he appeared as 'father' in many films. He never played the typical father, rather he added some quality

and posture of his own. So in every film showed a different father, by dint of his artistic grace and talent. Such was Mustafa. I am not a movie goer or a film critique, but so far I know as an actor, he was second to none in this country of ours. And I feel proud for him.

Recitation was his passion. He loved poetry as he loved talking. I met him, when he was a college boy in 1955. He was young and exuberant. Not a so-called bright student, but I discovered that he was a great lover of poetry and recitation. It seemed to me that, recitation was his conversation. I like

poems from the very onset of my childhood. When I met him. I got a chance to recite with him. We had recitation session for the whole day, sometimes days together. Mainly Robindranath was the main text. Besides solo, we used to recite in duet. He recited the part of 'Koch', me 'Debjani' in 'Biddy Abhishap'. In 'Karno-Kunti Sangbad', he would recite the part of Karno and I the part of Kunti. In this manner, we passed those golden days with poetry and music rhymes and rhythms. Later on, he became busy with lime-light, I with chalk and duster, fantasy world, literature for children, etc. etc. But recitation became his first love, acting the second or vice-versa.

Chand was addicted not only with Tagore. All the heroes of Bangla poetry were his favourite. Nazrul, Shudhin Dutt, Bishnu Dey, Naresh Guho were his constant companions. He had a fantastic memory. He could memorize so many dozens of his favourite poems. 'Bangla Chharo' by Sikanar Abu Zafar is a land mark of his recitation. He was a great lover of English poems also Shelley, Keats, Wordsworth and others were his best friends. Here also we shared addiction. 'Ode to a Nightingale' was one of our great favourite poem, I did not know that, he knew the piece by heart.

Once he presented me a collection of poems by Biddya Poti and Chandri Das. In the dedication page he wrote "Shudhu debo bole dilam." That was Chand, the uncommon common person, poetic and passionate. That copy of Biddya Poti and Chandri Das is no more with me. May be another lover of lyrics has the custody of the memento now which I regret. This reminds of his love for Baishnab Podaboly. Vanu Singha was another of his favourites. In the field of recitation and love of poetry, he was an allrounder. I don't exactly remember that, we used to read together or sing 'eoro bhadoro, maho bhadoro, suno mandiro

mor!"

Now it is Falgoun, the spring. The reciter is silent forever. He could not wait for his favourite 'maho bhadoro', the month of vabro and give more of his sweet but immortal voice to us, to the album of great recitation.

Chand was ailing for how long, I don't know. I came to know about his ailment only about two months or so in last Dec. My daughter Laboni (Progga Laboni) was telling me that 'chancha is not keeping well. He is really sick. He needs hospitalization."

I told, if he needs hospitalization, not here. He should be taken to some efficient hospital abroad. But some how that was not decided. He was given chemotherapy here in a local clinic.

On 20th Feb, at noon he took my hand in his palm and recited clearly from Keats' "Ode to a Nightingale." He was on oxygen fighting for breathe. I was then, not kind of prepared for Keats. But I heard, he went on -- "... to cease upon the midnight with no pain, Fade far away....."

Alas, the hospital could not wait for the midnight. They hastened the end, as they stretched him to the X-ray machine. He collapsed alone in a wide-wide sea of pain. The stretcher bearers brought the warrior to bed at around 9:35. They did not allow him the luxury of dying without pain at midnight and dissolve with eternity when the moon of February 20, was kept hidden under heavy electric blanket in the sky of Dhaka City.

Prof Halima Khatun is an educationist, children literature, poet, essayist, critic and researcher.

Event

Assemblage of folklorists

ANWAR ALI

LEADING urban life without relation to folk-masses is an impediment to the research of folklore...To reach the end, folklorists must strive for their own root."

Folklorists of this subcontinent reached to this conclusion after a three day long discussion and cultural function organised in Kolkata on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of Indian Folklore Congress Association. The programme was held at West Bengal Bangla Academy, Arabinado and Jibonanda auditoriums between February 10 and 12.

A seven-member delegation from Folklore Department of Rajshahi University (RU) led by Dr Abul Hasan Chowdhury attended the celebration. More than one hundred folklorists from different Indian Universities also joined it.

After a seven day visit to Kolkata, the RU folklore delegation members apprised journalists of the events held on the occasion.

The discussions were enriched by participation of eminent folklorists of this subcontinent, said Dr Abul Hasan Chowdhury. Some of the famous folklorists were Dr Samira Moitree of Lucknow University, Kakali Mondol, Dr Shila Basak of Kallayani University, Niladri Bhusan Harichandan of Vishva Bharati University, Amalendu Dey of Zaidpur University, Dr Khetra Gupta of Rabindra Bharati University, Ashish Kumar Ghosh of Kolkata University, Dr Padmaja Sen of Rachi University and Dr

Shuva Chari of Andra Pradesh. About a hundred essays prepared by the folklorists were presented in the discussions.

Dr Abul Hasan Chowdhury of RU also presented an essay 'Contemporary Folk Rhyme and Song in Bangladesh: Novelty and Modernity'.

In the essay, Chowdhury depicted new aspects of the contemporary folk rhyme and song in Bangladesh.

At the same time, he also portrayed a comparative study on the literary value of folklore in the context of modern civilization.

The most attractive event of the celebration was the concluding function held at the Bangla Academy auditorium.

Folklore students of Rajshahi University enthralled the audience by presenting at least 14 types of folk dances at the 'Nrityalokha' titled function directed by Ladli Mohon Maitra.

RU students Parvez Tanim, Rawzan Zahid, Purabi Sarkar Sathi, Farida Parveen and Rezwana Suraiya earned a huge appreciation from the audience by presenting popular folk dances like 'Nao chharia dey' (Bhatiali), 'Takum Takum baje Bangladesh dhol', 'Ghate lagaia dinga', 'Ilalabali ilalabali', 'Ohki garia bhai'.

Many of the Indian folklore researchers highly applauded the folk dances of Bangladesh and commented that 'Bangladesh advanced in folk dance while India did the same in classical dance.'

Teams from other states of India also performed folk dances.



TV GUIDE

Table with TV Guide content, including sections for Today's Highlights, Pick of the Day, and various channel schedules (BTV, ATN Bangla, STAR PLUS, STAR GOLD, STAR WORLD, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, HALLMARK).