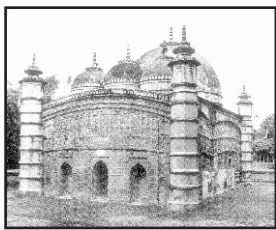


RECOMMENDATIONS



Photography Exhibition

October 24-30
A Photography exhibition titled Mughal Muslim Architecture (Part-1) by Babu Ahmed is going on at the Zainul Gallery 2, Institute of Fine Arts, DU. The show will remain open from 2 pm to 7 pm everyday.

Exhibition

October 16-27
An exhibition titled 'Transformation', a compilation of works by 14 artists from Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Bogra, is going on at the La Galerie of Alliance Francaise, 26, Mipur Road, Dhaka.

October 17-November 12
Gallery Dhruvada holds a group art exhibition titled 'Rhythm in nature' of sixty renowned artists of Bangladesh at the gallery premises. The show will remain open from 10 am to 9 pm daily.

October 24-31
Bengal gallery of Fine Arts will hold an exhibition of the works of three artists from three countries Bangladesh, Mexico and Uganda. The exhibition will remain open for all from 12 pm to 8 pm everyday. Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, House 275/F, Road 27 (old), Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

Drama Lane

Table with columns: Group, Plays, Date. Lists various drama groups and their upcoming plays.

Drama review

Nityapuram's 50th show

ERSHAD KAMOL

DESH Natak, a leading theatrical group, displayed the 50th show of its current production Nityapuram on October 21 at the Mahila Samity Auditorium. Writer Syed Shamsul Haq and General Secretary of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation Liakat Ali Lucky were present on the occasion. In his preview, Syed Shamsul Haq said that the history of human civilisation has been presented in the play with a different approach. One knows that human beings are divided by religion and caste.



A colourful presentation of Nityapuram on its 50th show

The group, as usual, started the play with a classical tune on the sitar. Masum Reza is the playwright as well as the director and he has adapted Nityapuram from Mahabharata. In Mahabharata, Akaloby is a minor character but here he is the protagonist because of his latent truth and heroism. The playwright thinks that Akaloby's story has greater effect on us than that of the whole Mahabharata.

In the play some gods and legends of the epic are depicted as villains. Many human beings like Akaloby and Droupadi are the victims of jealousy, vindictiveness and tricky politics of gods and upper caste people. This eternal social

problem is the theme of the play. The playwright has successfully expressed some implicit facts and questions of the myth through logic. Some dialogues of the play are very emotional and philosophical. As a director, Masum Reza is also successful at handling the narrative technique. The composition, particularly in case of archery, is spectacular. However to apply Bangla Acting Form his players have done some unnecessary and repeated physical movements during the delivery of dialogues.

Kamaluddin Kabir's set design is simple but symbolically effective to support the theme. Light designer Nasirul Haq Khokon has once again proved his usual mastery. The best part of his designing is visibility, texture and use of symbolic colours.

In the 50th show Dilip Chatterjee, as Akaloby, fumbles quite a bit and is not as spontaneous as he was in his earlier shows for which he won the best actor award. Rana Chaudhury Aranya as Arjun fails to play his role. Chorus is the best part of the show.

Events

Ataur Rahman at the silver jubilee of Indian Sangeet-Natak Academy



Ataur Rahman, Dr.Bhupen Hajarika and Omresh Puri at the silver jubilee of Indian Sangeet-Natak Academy

Actor-director Ataur Rahman and also General Secretary of Bangladesh Centre of International Theatre Institute(ITI) went to New Delhi to attend the silver jubilee of Indian Sangeet-Natak Academy recently, says a press release.

The academy arranged a grand drama festival and an international seminar as part of the programme from October 9 to October 22. General Secretary of ITI, Jennifer Walpole, chaired the session. Renowned actors, directors and theorists like Dr.Bhupen Hajarika, Girish Karnad, Kavalam Narayan Panikkar, Dr. Anandlal, poet G. P. Daspane and Habib Tanvir took part in the programme. Eko Odigiry (Japan), Sonia Ukina(Slovakia) and others represented ITI.

Flash back

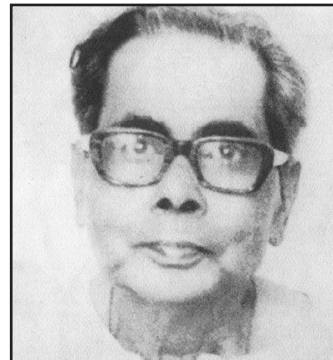
The first cultural delegates of the country
Stirring pleasant memories

Continued from yesterday

SADYA AFREEN MALLICK

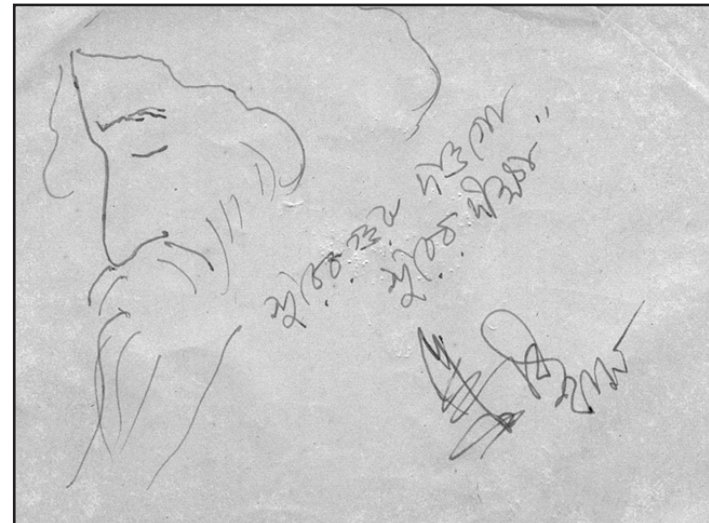
THE roads seemed unusually jammed the next day, as everyone seemed to reach the same venue in haste. As we reached the Victoria Memorial Palace grounds, the radiant glow of the sun had for the time being settled on the horizon. The massive assemblage of people all around waited in bated breath, to watch the performance of artistes from both West Bengal and of the newly independent state of Bangladesh.

Girls in white Jamdani saris with multi coloured embroidery and boys in off white silk Punjabi's looked elegant. As we took the stage the patriotic songs, created a wave of passion and sent messages of warmth and friendship to those who had sacrificed so much during



Devabratra Biswas

Laila Samaad was well appreciated by the audience and the print media. Eminent news caster Debdulal Bandopadhyaya interviewed the troupe members and brought out a special feature in Ultorath, a very famous magazine.



Tagore's sketch done in a single sweep by the maestro Devabratra Biswas back in 1972.

As we waited patiently, Devabratra Biswas appeared in his usual calm yet majestic manner. Dressed in his usual attire of a gerua lungi and panjabi, a bag made from coarse cotton hung from his shoulders. A pair of ordinary slippers adorned his feet. As he entered, we gazed into the expressive eyes of the maestro. Devabratro spoke in pure east Bengal dialect, which hadn't changed even after he had migrated from Kishoreganj of earlwhile east Pakistan a long time back. Many of us who were seeing the maestro for the first time noticed in awe how the legend epitomised humility.

Sitting on a high stool, he pulled the harmonium close to him. As

Devabratro suffered from asthma, therefore he preferred to sing baitalik or songs with out rhythm at that time. His passionate renditions I thought were comparable to that of Kamol Das Gupta or Shideshwar Mukhopadhyaya, whom I had the rarest opportunity to listen to, from a very close distance later on.

Ruma Guhathakurta and her Calcutta Youth Choir were a vibrant group of artistes creating a ripple in the field of patriotic songs then. Her co-artiste Dhirup Guhathakurta, visually impaired artiste Shwapan Gupta, Maya Sen, Purobi Mukhopadhyaya, Orgho Sen, Sontosh Sen Gupta, Ritu Ghatak were also present on that day. Some rendered songs after the maestro, transcending music which spoke nothing short of devotion and the Divine.

Camera was an expensive buy, instead an autograph book worked as a perfect match with my purse. For the next few days it was my constant companion. Every now and then I pulled it out from my purse and held it out to people who had reached the level of excellence.

Last Friday, while looking for a book in my library downstairs, something popped out from the bookshelf and fell to the ground. It was the autograph book. A very prized possession of mine, lost so many years back. I reclined on a chair as I waltzed through the memory lane...



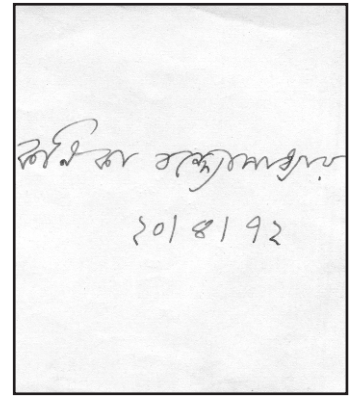
Konika Bandiopadhyaya and Shuchitra Mitra

our nine months of struggle for freedom. Asaduzzaman Noor, a very prominent figure in our cultural field today, read out spirited poetry pieces, creating a spark among the spectators. The dance pieces directed by Sharmin Hasan were choreographed with the patriotic songs mostly set to tune by Sheikh Luthfur Rahman. Abu Zafar Obaidullah's poem Kumro phuley sinchronised with a dance piece, stirred memories of the martyrs of the liberation war, never to return to the empty laps of their wailing mothers.

The total presentation including Michael Madhusudan Dutt's play Buro Shaliker Ghare Ro directed by

Legendary singer Shuchitra Mitra and other noted singers of West Bengal, Orgho Sen, The Calcutta Youth Choir, headed by Ruma Guhathakurta and many others presented their best at the cultural meet. We as guest artistes had the privilege to interact with artistes of great repute of India for the next few days.

The following evening, many of us were invited to Maya Sen's house, who at that time was at the pinnacle of her career as a Tagore singer. What came as a total surprise to us was, George Da', Devabratra Biswas and Konika Bandiopadhyaya the living legends of Tagore songs were coming too.



everyone listened to his magical voice from a close distance, none bothered to hide the tears which trickled down the cheeks.

Bedazzled

Shakira named UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador

AP, Geneva

Shakira has been appointed a goodwill ambassador for UNICEF, the United Nations children's agency said Friday. The 26-year-old singer is the youngest person and the first Colombian to serve as UNICEF ambassador.

'UNICEF has done tremendous work in my home nation ... and I have

seen firsthand the difference UNICEF makes,' Shakira said in a statement released by the agency. 'It's rewarding to know that I join such a great list of stars supporting UNICEF, and can personally contribute to improving the lives and futures of children.'

Since 1954, when the late comedian Danny Kaye became the first goodwill ambassador for the United

Nations Children's Fund, leading personalities in the arts, sports, literature and public life have traveled the world advertising the world body's work.

Shakira, who lives in Miami and has won a Latin Grammy and numerous MTV awards, joins a list of past and present UNICEF ambassadors that includes the late Audrey Hepburn, Harry Belafonte, Roger

Moore, Vanessa Redgrave, Jessica Lange and Mia Farrow.

Currently, there are about 100 goodwill ambassadors chosen by various U.N. agencies. Other youthful ambassadors include 28-year-old actress Angelina Jolie, who has represented the UN High Commissioner for Refugees since 2001.



Prize distribution ceremony

The prize distribution ceremony of Annanya Eid Fashion Competition 2003 was held at the Jalshahgar of Hotel Purbani last Friday, says a press release. Chaired by the editor of the fortnightly Annanya, prizes were distributed by Kabori Sarwar and Bibi Russell.

Out of a total of 97 boutiques and design houses, 41 won prizes under 12 categories. The panel of judges included Zinnat Barkatullah, Rasha Islam, Ferdousi Priyobhshini, Aleya Ferdousi, Merina Choudhury and Sadeka Shafiqullah. Bonya Lohani and Annanya Ruma anchored the programme. The show was rounded up by songs by pop-singer Mehryn.



Editor of the fortnightly Annanya, (seated second from right) seen with Kabori Sarwar and Bibi Russell.



The Istanbul Music and Sema group of Whirling Dervishes perform on the forecourt of the Opera House in Sydney on October 22. The ceremony originated in the 13th century and speaks of love, brotherhood and tolerance.

TV GUIDE

Table with columns: Channel, Time, Program Name. Lists TV schedules for BTV, CHANNEL-i, ATN BANGLA, and BBC World.

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TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS and PICK OF THE DAY. Features 'Drugstore Cowboy' and 'Carlito's Way' with descriptions and cast details.

STAR MOVIES and STAR PLUS. Lists movie titles like 'Monkey Shines', 'Teachers', and 'Back to School'.

STAR GOLD and STAR PLUS. Lists programs like 'Amanush', 'Geetaa Mera Naam', and 'Maya'.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC and STAR PLUS. Lists programs like 'Insects From Hell', 'Monkey Business', and 'Crittercam-Wildtech Adventures'.

STAR SPORTS and STAR PLUS. Lists sports events like 'English Premier Football League', 'Irb Rugby World Cup', and 'The Golf Club 2003'.