

RECOMMENDATIONS

Reconstruction of Reality

June 7-21
Kazi Sayed Ahmed holds a solo exhibition of his artworks titled 'Reconstruction of Reality' at the gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka.

Twelve young artists' show

May 26 - June 4
A contemporary painting exhibition of 12 young artists of Bangladesh is on at the gallery of Russian Cultural



center in the city. The display is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

Made in Australia

June 1-7
Shahabuddin Mohammad, an artist of the country, presently based in Australia, holds his second solo exhibition at Zainul Gallery of Fine Arts Institute in the city.

Painting Exhibition

June 6-15
A painting exhibition by artist Esmekar Uddin Ahmed will start at the Gallery Chittrak (H-21, Road-4, Dhanmondi R/A) from June 6. Artist Imdad Husain will inaugurate the exhibition while singer Sudhin Das will be present as special guest.

The exhibition will remain open everyday from 10:00a.m. till 8:00p.m.s

Event

Honouring a martyred intellectual

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy holds memorial meet in honour of Munir Chowdhury, a martyred intellectual of '71

CULTURE DESK

A memorial meeting in honour of Shaheed Professor Munir Chowdhury was held on May 3 at the balcony of the newly-constructed art gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the city.

Mustafa Zaman Abbasi, Director General of the academy, presided over the meet. An introductory speech was delivered by S.M. Mohsin, Director (drama and cinema) of Shilpakala Academy.

A dance drama titled 'Smriti Jagania Shobdomala', accompanied by poetry reading, was staged before a capacity audience at the gallery balcony.

Munir Chowdhury was born in Manikganj district. His father Abdul Halim Chowdhury was a district magistrate. He did his MA in English from Dhaka University in 1947 and also did an MA in Bangla from Dhaka University while he was incarcerated at Dhaka Central Jail.

From 1949-50, Munir Chowdhury taught Bangla and English literature at Brojo Lal College at Doulatpur in Khulna and became a professor of English at Jagannath College in 1950. He was a lecturer in English at Dhaka University from early 50's till the mid and was also a part-time teacher in the Commerce Department and Bangla Department during the period.

CULTURE DESK

Inspired by leftist political thinking, he joined Pragati Writers and Artists Guild in 1943 and also attended Communist Party conference in 1948. At the end of the same year, he became general secretary of Pragati group. He participated in

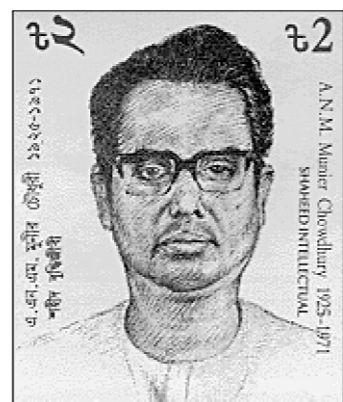


Image of Munir Chowdhury on postai stamp

the Language Movement of 1952 and addressed the Dhaka University teachers' meeting on February 23, 1952, in protest of the killings and tortures of police on February 21. He was arrested on February 26 and was sent to jail until. While in prison, he wrote his famous drama KOBOR (the Grave) in 1953. He is the inventor of Bangla typewriter keyboard, known as Munir Optima.

He was awarded Bangal Academy Prize in 1962 and Daud prize in 1965, and Sitara-e-Imtiaz title in 1966. In support of 'Bangabandhu' Sheikh Mujib's non-cooperation movement in March 1971, he returned the title, Sitara-e-Imtiaz.

Playwright, short-story writer, brilliant orator, successful university teacher and critic, Munir Chowdhury was a foremost intellectual of Bangladesh, who was dragged away from home on the eve of the country's liberation in '71 and was killed to be buried in mass grave in Rayer bazar.

New book

Investigating metal casting

A new book focuses light on metal casting industry, threatened with extinction

CULTURE DESK



Bangladesh Metal Casting: Five Techniques.

By Matthew S. Friedman. Dhaka, UPL, 2001, 72 pp. Tk. 300.

SOME seventy years ago, AE Porter, in the Census Report of Bengal (1931) wrote 'Notes on the processes of decaying indstretis'. In his introduction, he mentioned that the Notes were being written 'to place on record... processes of those industries which have decayed or are threatened with extinction owing to the competition of mass production'.

one could find in other countries, and that the craftsmen are masters at copying figures of Hindu and Buddhist statues from simple photographs. He cautions us, however, that 'some of the statues look so authentic with their rich patinas, they are sometimes sold as old pieces' (p. 36). The writer then goes on to describe the other four techniques used in metal casting-clay casting method, sand casting method, spoon making, and plate making.

The 72page monographs is rather a report on the five different processes or casting techniques that are being used in creating various types of metal objects. Before proceeding to deal with the intricate details of the various techniques, the author has very briefly mentions about the occupational castes engaged in the trade, its organizational set-up, and about the metals used in the actual making of the objects.

The most important contribution of Firedman, to my mind, is undoubtedly his infinite patience and keen observation power in noting down to the minutest detail the steps of each technique used in making the objects. Observations such as 'the color of casted objects, often varies depending upon the quality of the metals used' (p. 21); 'the darker the shade, the more expensive the price' (P.21); 'not all objects that have a dark color are necessarily old' (p. 21); and 'antique pieces tend to have smooth features' (p.22) are few examples of his carefully recorded observations. We are pleased to learn from the author that workers engaged in the art of 'lost wax method' of Dhamrai can produce almost anything that

The author deserves credit for his laborious fieldwork. The little book has added to our existing knowledge on the subject, even if on a modest scale. The excellent photographs taken by Jay Andron have undoubtedly enriched the quality of the work.

The author, however, needs to delve on aspects like labour, capital, organization, marketing, etc. besides widening the canvas of his investigation to include other metal object manufacturing areas of the country. This will undoubtedly make the book much more worthwhile. The book is remarkably free from printing errors.

To create public awareness about the languishing state of the industry, the book needs to be translated into Bangla, and its price kept within the purchasing capacity of the people.

Exhibition

Art on wheels

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy's mobile art gallery reaches Rangamati as part of the institution's countrywide touring art exhibition programme

CULTURE DESK

An exhibition of artworks, on view at van, started at the Rangamati office premises of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on June 1. The exhibition featuring works by reputed artists of Bangladesh took place as part of a special outreach programme undertaken by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy to bring art to common people across the country,

exhibition amidst a festive mood. He also handed prizes among the winners of the children painting competition. Around 400 children took part in the competition.

The event that had created quite a stir among the local people, was addressed by several other reputed guests including Manik Lal Dewan, a local leader, artists Qayyum Chowdhury, Khalid Mahmud Mithu, Kanak Chapa Chakma and Subir Chowdhury, who is the director of



Artists Qayyum Chowdhury and Kanak Chapa Chakma accompany Bodhipriyo Larma (center) as the guests visit the artworks at the mobile gallery

Coinciding the mobile art exhibition, a painting competition for the local children was held in Rangamati.

Jyotindrobodhi Priyo Larma, Chairman of Chittagong Hill-tracts Regional Council, inaugurated the

Fine Arts of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

The mobile art exhibition ended on June 4. The touring show will now visit Khagrachari for an exhibition to be held on June 7.

TV GUIDE

Table with TV channel logos (BTV, ATN, BBC World, Ekushey) and their respective program schedules for the day.

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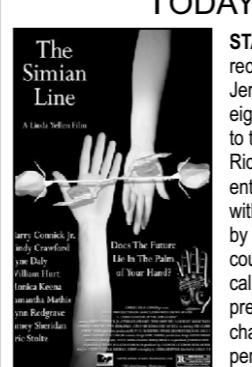
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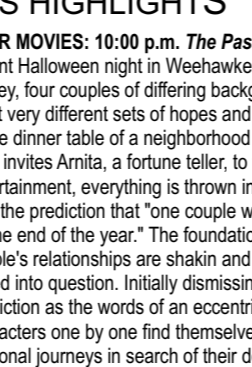
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TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



STAR MOVIES: 10:00 p.m. The Pass. On a recent Halloween night in Weehawken, New Jersey, four couples of differing backgrounds bring eight very different sets of hopes and aspirations to the dinner table of a neighborhood party.

PICK OF THE DAY



On HBO at 10:00 pm Tanya Roberts brings the based-on-a-comic-strip Sheena to life on the big screen. Sheena is a fair-skinned orphan taken in by a kind priestess in a remote African village and trained in the ancient art of telepathic communication with all creatures.

Table listing various TV programs and their times.

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