

RECOMMENDATIONS

Australian Film Festival

August 15-16
Australian High Commission in Bangladesh hosts an Australian film festival on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and Bangladesh.

Art exhibition

August 2-15
Artist Fakrul Islam holds a solo exhibition of his works at the gallery of Alliance Francaise, complete schedule of which will soon be announced.

Sculpture exhibition

August 12-28
A sculpture exhibition of artist Ferdousi Priyobhashini begins at Bengal art gallery at Dhanmondi in the city. The exhibition runs everyday and is open to all.

Children's art exhibition

August 9-13
A children's art display starts at DRIK gallery in the city and continues everyday from 3 to 8 p.m. The exhibition titled 'Shishuder chokhey Bangladesh' is open to all.

Dance Festival

September 15-17
A dance festival is to be organised by Nriya Dhara, a local dance institution, at the auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum at Shahbagh in the city that will be participated by over 100 danseuse from across the country including tribal performers from Marma, Santal, Pankho, Chakma and Manjupuri communities.

A seminar on the trend and status of Bangladeshi folk dance will also be held during the three-day session that will be attended by reputed dance artists, instructors, critics and cultural personalities from across the country.

Exhibition

Colours and Strokes

Young artists express ideas about the country through their paintings at Drik Gallery

HARUN UR RASHID

A panoramic image of the country through an exhibition of paintings by young artists was presented at Drik Gallery. Entitled 'Shishu Kishorer Chokhe Bangladesh 2002 (Bangladesh 2002 in the Eyes of Children), the exhibition of some sixty works was inaugurated on August 9, by Jahanaara Abedin, wife of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, and continued up to August 13. Artist Abu Salim, the founder teacher of Imaginations, 'an art school for imaginative minds,' organized the exhibition, in which his students had participated.

In an unostentatious opening ceremony, Poet Shamsur Rahman, Artist Hashem Khan, Professor Anisuzzaman were present along with Jahanaara Abedin. They all praised and encouraged such initiative, which would enable children to express their thoughts and messages regarding the country. In his speech, Shamsur Rahman expressed his keen eagerness to watch the young artists' works, as he found similarity between himself and the artists, both of whom draw images of themselves with words, whereas the artists work with colours.

Artist Hashem Khan drew attention to the recurring failures of the elders, and contrasted it with the glorious achievements of the country's young generation in many fields both at home and abroad. He also pointed to the contribution of Zainul Abedin and Rokunuzzaman Khan 'Dada Bhai' to the establishment of children's artistic expression in different media.

In her inaugural speech, Jahanaara Abedin reminisced about her observation of Zainul Abedin's habitual characteristics regarding painting. She also said that she would rather see the works of the young artists as they themselves saw them.

In the exhibit a whole world of colours and forms, ideas and viewpoints emerged before the spectators. Not an aspect of Bangladesh could be singled out that did not



have its place among the paintings. Subjects included: lives of people both in rural and urban settings, as well as from different professions, tribal life in the Hill Tracts, the Freedom Fight of 1971, wildlife, scenic beauty in different seasons, culture and heritage in Bangladesh, child labour, terrorism and drugs addiction, acid violence and victimisation of the women, pollution-free environment, and still life.

The works displayed well the distinct characteristics and style of these young artists. Their viewpoints and treatment of the subjects, their choice of colours, and their imaginative ways of presenting their ideas all assuredly promise some future gifted genius.

There were two paintings on the Liberation War of Bangladesh by Farah Majid Purna and Quazi Faheemul Huq. Thirteen year-old Purna captured a brief moment of an operation, in which a Pakistani gunboat was shown attacked and destroyed by the 'Muktishenas'. Purn's setting of the picture had superb contrast of colours presenting the destruction of the gunboat, leading up to the approach of victory and the birth of Bangladesh. Faheem, 13, however, presents the grim genocide and the heinous mastermind of it, General

Yahia. His use of colours like yellow, green and red instantly fills the viewer with a sad memory of the holocaust. Faheem's inclusion of Artist Quamrul Hasan's famous poster of the cartoon on Yahia in his work surely conveyed more hatred.

The natural beauty of Bangladesh in different seasons found expression in quite a number of works. Rafsun Jani's pastel-work titled Nature had striking warmth of bright colours for the subject. The sun emitting glowing yellow light, and the clear blue sky, presented gentle aspect of Nature. Adib Musfakim Khan, 12, had focused on two lone king-storks facing each other against the background of an overcast sky as a 'nor'wester was about to strike. Suria Ahmed, 15, another nature-lover, had drawn a rather ordinary scene water-colour rather down to earth scene, in which people are busy in their daily workfarms engaged in cultivating, a boat plying in a river that is flowing by a village. What was striking about the picture was that it had gained a beauty of its own by the artistic strokes and mingling of colour that the artist had employed. Obviously, Suria had an innate sense that helps her discover beauty even out of the most commonplace.

Suria's use of mingling of colours was found, in mature and meaningful level, in another of her water-colour title, Victim. The subject there was of very grave nature the victimisation of women in society; and Suria's presentation of it showed her true concern for it. A woman's figure was shown on the left of the picture, whose blurry unidentifiable face implied 'the universal woman.' On the right was a patch of colours among which red and green were more prominent. And colours were not just something beautiful but had their own meaning: the blue sari of the woman was symbolic of the calm and serene nature of women, whereas red and green were colours of anger, hatred and assault directed by society at women.

The theme of women's victimisation in form of acid violence was the subject of two other paintings in the exhibition. Sumaiya Nawshin Khan (15) had drawn in pastel a female face and in pencil sketch another face that was covered by the palms of the woman. The contrast was clearly between the two phases in the woman's life: the colourful face represented the joyous phase, while the gray pencil-sketch one implied the fading away of beauty and honour after victimisation.

Shahrin Mahfuza (16) had also presented a similar treatment of the subject, except that she had divided one face into the two representative halves, and that she has used pastel and pencil in an opposite manner to that of Sumaiya. As a result, in her work the viewer had to face the cruelty and horror of acid violence in a more direct way.

Apart from paintings in different media, a mural of bits of coloured paper, done by 11 year-old Arifur Noor, attracted the viewers' attention. Entitled Village, the mural showed promising talents.

The exhibition greatly added to the spectators' experience of art, and gave another opportunity to evaluate our children's thoughts and talents. It is only expected that there will be many more such exposures of children's talents in future.

Poetry

Rhythmic lines and enthusiastic writers

English Club (NSU) organizes poetry competition

CULTURE DESK

NEW writers, who attended the workshop and poetry reading, seemed sensitive and keen to the events and occurrences around them. Their poems talk about Bangladesh, but the perspective is new, they see with an eye unbiased and feel with their heart. 'Pen and Poets', a country-wide poetry competition for young poets writing in English, was organised by the English Club of North South University a few days ago. A two-hour long workshop was offered to the participants who had submitted their poems. The well-known poet Kaiser Haq conducted the workshop. A prize giving ceremony was held after that. Professor Fakrul Alam, eminent translator and essayist, distributed prizes among the three poets who had been selected by the three-member panel of judges.

A good number of entries were received by members of the English Club and were sent to the judges for the selection of the best from the short listed poets. The three-member panel of judges included Professor Kaiser Haq, Department of English, University of Dhaka; Professor Harun-ur-Rashid, Department of English, North South University; and Professor Khaliqz-zaman Elias, Department of English, North South University. The focus was on new and young writers. The participants had to meet two requirements for entering the competition, the submitted poems had to fall in the limit of 100 to 300 words and the poets had to be between the age limit of 16 to 25.

In the workshop Kaiser Haq talked about poems that are

considered to be inspirational for new poets. The making of a good piece of writing and the methods of editing were discussed in the workshop. The workshop was participated by more than twenty young writers.

The English Club [TEC] is the literary voice of North South University. It is a relatively new face amidst the clubs of NSU. The workshop was designed to bring young poets from different institutions and show the various aspects of modern poetry. The 1st, 2nd & 3rd winners of the poetry contest, the special part of the occasion, will have their poems published in the club's journal "English Matters", a regular publication that came out first and now is the foremost journal of the NSU.

The downpour of lyrical lines and striking images, in English, proved again that the energy of Bangladeshis writing in English was never exhausted though the pioneer Poet Madhusudan, a colossus in Bangla literature, had to retreat from the literary landscape of nineteenth century England. Time has changed, and South Asian writers writing in English have got a huge reader market both in UK and the US. Bangladeshis write in Bangla and English frequently, they used to write in Persian and Urdu ones. An excellent blend of races and cultures has enriched this soil from years. Now days an increasing number of writers are trying their hands in writing English fiction and English poetry. Kaiser Haq, a Bangladeshi poet writing in English, is now one of the most glowing figures in the firmament of postcolonial literature.

Video

A reflection of social ailment

Steps Towards Development screens premier of Abhijatra in the city that rightfully condemns female repression



CULTURE DESK

AUDIENCE present at the Auditorium of Russian Cultural center at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday evening, watched the premier show of 'Abhijatra', a video production of Steps Towards Development that depicted the physical and psychological repression and trauma experienced by females of our society at various stages of their lives, from the male dominated quarters. The film lasted for 41 minutes.

As the synopsis unfolded, Reshmi, a pre-adolescent girl of the rural Bengal appeared on the screen who represented millions of others of her age and status across the country who have been falling prey to clutches of ill-quaranters those who have been in constant search for females only to turn women into objects of covetous desire. Reshmi spent days of innocent childhood with her parents and a younger brother but ultimately failed to comply with the negative demands of the society. Reshmi during the course of her pre-teen years witnessed the paroxysm and brutal sufferings of a couple of other young women and thus displayed a kind of withdrawal from the social community. She suffered from mental imbalance and her state of mind produced some inevitable and negative impact on the family and the surroundings. Her hopes and aspirations finally faded and got lost forever.

But this has not been common in every other case. Sometimes, the point of no return compelled one to stand up with courage and determination against exploitation, abuse and torture.

TV GUIDE

Table with TV channel logos (BTV, CHANNEL-I, ATN BANGLA, EKUSHEY, HBO) and their respective program schedules for the day.

Table with TV channel logos (CHANNEL-I, STAR MOVIES, STAR PLUS, STAR GOLD, STAR NEWS, STAR WORLD, CHANNEL [V], HBO) and their respective program schedules.

Table with TV channel logos (STAR GOLD, STAR NEWS, STAR WORLD, CHANNEL [V], HBO) and their respective program schedules.

Table with TV channel logos (ALPHA TV BANGLA, HALL MARK, ZEE ENGLISH, ZEE NEWS, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, HBO) and their respective program schedules.

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