

RECOMMENDATIONS

Theatre Ibsen's

Doll's House
November 08-13
Center for Asian Theatre (CAT) holds International Ibsen Conference and Theatre Festival through an inaugural ceremony 'The Relevance of A Doll's House Translation and Adaptation' at Hotel Purbani from 9:30 a.m. onwards.

Group art show

November 4-15
Alliance Francaise holds a Group Art Exhibition, 'Figure of 5' being participated by artists Jamal Ahmed, Mustafa Zaman, Abhijit Choudhury, Setara Elin and Dewan Mizan.

THE KALIMA TAYEBA

November 01-15
Entitled, 'The Kalima Tayeba', a painting exhibition of eminent artist Murtaza Baseer begins at the gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the city and remains open every day from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and during Ramadan till 4:00 p.m.

Japanese Doll exhibition

October 29 November 9
A Japanese doll show takes place at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy premises in observance of the ongoing Japan month in Bangladesh. The exhibition remains open from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. every day while during the Ramadan till 4:00 p.m.

Exhibition

Mysterious and absorbing

Noted painter Murtaja Baseer's solo exhibit continues in the city

AZIZ AMIRUL

A fabulous array of bright and dark shades mesmerizes one and creates an instant mood of overt spiritualism upon the soul while it remains glued to the splashed works of art. These were the canvases hung across the gallery at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy where currently runs an exhibition titled, Murtaja Baseer's 'The Kalima Tayeba'.

Arabic characters, 24 in total, make up the phrase 'La ilaha illallah' in Holy Qur'an which comes up, once again, on artist Murtaja's canvas and this time, laden with colours of several kinds.

Baseer's displayed works of art, all in oil on canvas reach an astounding height in abstraction and yet provide a blended taste of strong realism in form and seem to release a sense of mystery in their game of hide and seek under the light and shadow.

The artist, in a quest to receive spiritual accomplishment and to share the fruit, if any, with the future on-looker, had earlier begun on an eloquent fashion, the trip with his brush. This was by painting the phrase upon the first canvas and then completing the voyage upon the surface of canvases number 37. As a result, the current exhibition contains a total of 37 works which have been done in an approximate period of two months.

Strong contrasting colours, those in red, blue, green, violet, purple, yellow and orange, used in the compositions of the Kalima Tayeba in Murtaja's works, in fact, carry symbolic connotations and in most cases speak of the glory of Allah and that of the Prophet Muhammad.

In the first few works, dark shades of violet and purple signify the dominance of the Almighty over cosmic creations while colours of green and red embody a sporting relationship in



Artist Murtaja Baseer with his works

A particular work, for instance, the no. 4, has the name of Allah in the middle in red while 'la ilaha...' comes as a thatch to provide a sort of shelter as the word, 'Mu-

hammad-ur Rasulallah' faints away at the bottom. The Allah of 'la ilaha...' inscribed in purple shines like a star in the dark firmament.

In the Holy Qur'an, a true

believer is often compared with a tree, green in shade that spreads its branches, twigs and leaves towards the blue sky and bears sweet, juicy, colourful fruits. The roots of the tree go deep down in



Kalema Tayeba in oil on canvas

their search for wisdom, piety and universal fraternity. The colours in the works of Murtaja Baseer hence too, relate to this special message and interpretation, as we find green dominating in most of the creations. This is along with blue, red and yellow. In several of the works, yellow shines with intense brightness like shade of beaten gold thus glorifies the composition resembling the sun, a central figure of the solar system.

From work no. 9 onwards, green along with orange and yellow occupies most of the foreground and also gives way to violet and deep red. Sometimes, the word 'la ilaha...' in green, resembles a dense forest while the inscription of the word, 'Muhammad-ur Rasulallah' hangs like fruits from behind the foliage.

Baseer attempts to break the monotony of the calligraphic precision of the subject through usage of a wide range of shades while he draws forms of the same phrase of the Kalema Tayeba but only with a fresh alteration of position, shape and size. Each and every time, the same thing comes before the viewers' sight as a completely new work of art.

Murtaja's earlier exhibitions depicted works upon wings of the butterfly, upon forms of pebbles and now it has come through the holy words of the Kalema. To some, the latest works of the artist may give rise to controversy and would dismiss him as a popular stunt, yet those who follow Murtaja Baseer would certainly know that a deep sense of mysticism and spiritual coherence is persistently present in his works. Murtaja Baseer, a great son of a great father, Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah is ever since determined to continue his journey into the world of mysticism and that of the cryptic.

The exhibition is open every day from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. till November 15.

Music

Presenting Bangla modern musical mastery

Singer Shelu Barua's solo



CULTURE DESK

ENTITLED 'Neel Dhruvo Tara', a fascinating musical solo performance was held on November 4 at the Engineers' Institute auditorium in the city, where artiste Shelu Barua rendered songs.

The event that was arranged by Palli Baul Samaj Unnayan Sangstha, an organisation of folk mystic singers and promoters of the country, brought in before a large audience the highly popular vocalist Shelu Barua who presented a total of 17 numbers including Tagore and Nazrul songs, in addition to modern classical songs and also numbers from the golden past.

Some of the numbers included 'Shediner sona jhora shondhya', 'Naam rekhechi bonolota', 'Amay

proshno korey neel dhruvo tara', 'Oli-r kotha shuney bakul hashey', 'Ei raat tomar amar, ei chand tomar amar', 'Tumi ki shei ager moto aacho', 'O Nadi-ry', 'Dweep chhilo shikha chhilo', 'Eto sur eto gaan' were some of the other songs presented at the ceremony by the vocalist.

Shelu Barua, in the later part of the program, also sang some numbers entirely of his own and composed recently by some of the younger music directors of the country. A few of those were 'Shoibal cottage-ey', 'Tomar mukhey jokhon' and others.

'Bashi shuney aar kaaj nei', 'Nishithy jaijo pulbonoy', 'Rangila rangila, Coffee house', etc. were presented on special request of the audience.

Award



Kazi Akhtaruzzaman Nabab, a renowned photo-journalist grabbed an award in the Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) Photo Contest 2002 through his above photograph 'Bordhishnu Paribaar'

TV GUIDE

Table with TV channel logos (BTB, ALPHA TV BANGLA, CHANNEL-i, BBC, ZEE TV) and their respective program schedules.

Table with program details including titles like 'Satan's School For Girls', 'Demolition Man', 'Devil In A Blue Dress', and 'HALLMARK'.

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Table with program details including titles like 'STAR SPORTS', 'STAR WORLD', 'STAR PLUS', and 'STAR PLUS'.

Table with program details including titles like 'NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC', 'STAR PLUS', and 'STAR PLUS'.