

CULTURAL FEAS



Art Exhibition

Title: Cosmic Journey
Artist: Ali Iman
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Time: February 09-22, from 12pm to 8pm

Ceramics Exhibition

Title: Twelve Hundred Degree Celsius Plus
Organiser: Clay Image
Venue: Gallery Kaya
Time: February 11-24, from 11am to 8pm

Musical Soiree

Artistes: Prithviraj and the members of Gayokee Music Academy
Organiser: Gayokee Music Academy
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Time: February 9-10, at 7pm

Solo Concert

Artist: Kumar Biswajit
Organiser: Fusion
Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy Auditorium
Time: February 10, at 5:30pm
Artistes: Meeta Pandit and Allie Delfau
Organiser: Alliance Francaise
Venue: Goethe-Institut, House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi
Time: February 19, at 7pm

Drama Festival

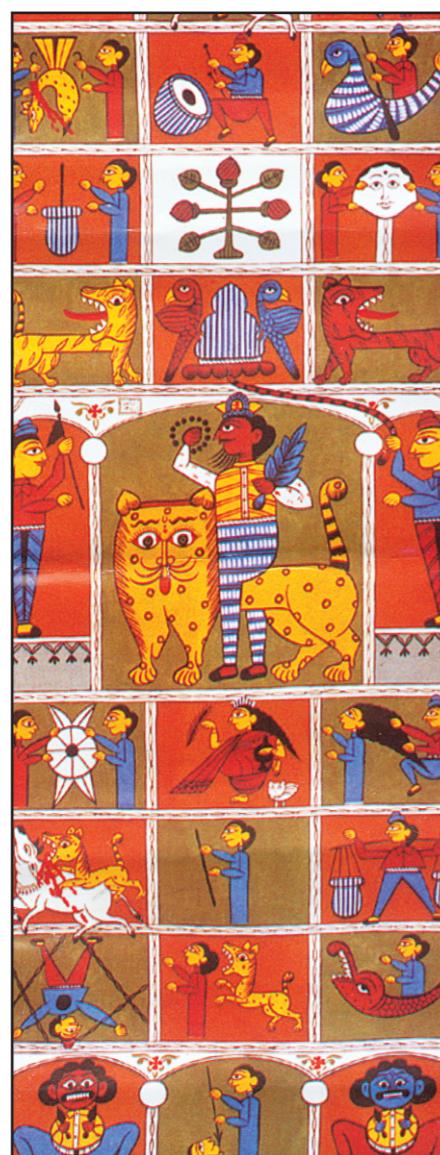
Nagarik Natyangan Natya Utshab 2005
Organiser: Nagarik Natyangan
Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpkar Academy
Date: February 6-12, at 6:30pm
Schedule:
Feb 10 Aami Birangana Bolchhi (Nagarik Natyangan)
Feb 10 Shikarokti (Abhash, India)
Feb 11 Char Adhyay (Do)
Feb 12 Apurba Golap (Do)

Drama Festival

Title: Udichi Natyabash 2005
Organiser: Udichi
Venue: Mahila Shamiti Auditorium
Date: February 11-16, at 6:30pm
Schedule:
Feb 11 Bou Bashanti (Udichi)
Feb 12 Shangkranti (Aronyak)
Feb 13 The Freedom of the City (Udichi)
Feb 14 Circus Circus (Prachyanaut)
Feb 15 Jalalika (Padatik Natya Shangshad)
Feb 16 Chilekothar Sepai (Udichi)

The call of Gazir Pot

Folk art in progress



FAYZA HAQ

SHAMBHU Acharya can trace his interest in arts and crafts back to nine generations (450 years). His family did paintings of not only *Gazir Pot* (scrolls illustrating the myth of the Muslim saint Gazi) but *Mahabharata*, *Ramayana*, *Behula*-Lokhinder Kahini, Sri Krishna and *Muharram Pot* (based on the life of Hussain and Hassan). A *pat*, Shongho explains, is a story, and a *potobhumi* is a series of stories that revolve around a hero.

Shambhu does stories of both Hindus and Muslims. Gazi, he says, the subject of many of his paintings was a powerful Muslim general with a metaphysical force, who tamed wild animals, and has a following among the gypsies. He is specially associated with the tiger and is often presented as riding a tiger. He was revered by both Hindus and Muslims and had an assistant called Kalu. Shongho has done 27 panel paintings with Gazi as his subject. He makes his canvases by layering *markin* cloth with brick powder, tamarind juice and egg yolk. He has also used various oxides and black soot.

Shambhu had been a drop out at school, studying upto class VIII. Even at school, he did two hours of regular studies a day and the rest of the time was spent on his paintings. He went to a festival in London in 1999 with his *Gazir pot* paintings and found himself a success. There Mahajabeen Khan had helped him. This was through the National Craft Council, whose chairman was Tofail Ahmed, who encouraged Shambhu a lot. Tofail Ahmed had found the *Gazir pot* in Kolkata, and with the help of Hamida Hussain of the National Craft Council, found another such specimen of the *Gazir pot* at the home of a gypsy, Durjon Ali. They persuaded Shambhu, to whose house they had finally traced the *Gazir pot*, to be a member of the council, and undertake *Gazi pot* paintings for Shilab Abed of Aarong and Joyapatil of Kumudini, and so promote the paintings.

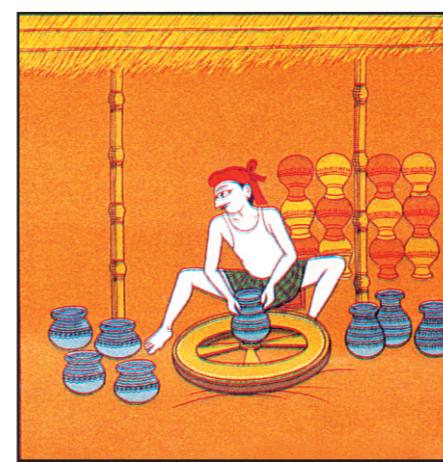
Today he has 24 panels on the subject of the freedom struggle and hopes to exhibit these in Dhaka. He has brought in the freedom effort of the Bangalis during the British rule and later during the time of the Pakistani supremacy. He has brought in Titumir, Pritilata, Surjo Sen and Dudu Mia. He has depicted Mahatma Gandhi, Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Bongobondhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman. The Language Movement of

1952 has not been left out. Each panel, 5ft by 2ft, has taken him 12 days. The delineation has followed the folk style that one found in the *Gazir pot* collection, that had been exhibited in 2003 at Chitrak.

Some of the work has been done outdoors and some inside the house. He did the base with a piece of tied up cloth dipped in colours. Next with brushes he added the fine lines in black, red and other colours. Apart from ambitious subjects, he has also dealt with the conventional topics of fishermen, farmers and women dressing and doing their hair. The conventional folk forms have been incorporated and these have his distinctive style. He did try oil colours but he did not feel comfortable with this medium.

He had no problems in selling his paintings as he had the support of Ramendu Majumdar of *ad firm Expressions* and he had access to Chitrak gallery. This presentation of folk stories with paint on cloth is unique. Shambhu's parents used to make traditional statues out of clay and Shambhu had studied them. "However, the work of my parents followed the Hindu custom while I wanted to bring in subjects that would interest the Muslims as well," Shambhu says.

With the presentation of the subject of the freedom fighters, Shambhu hopes to continue with the preservation of traditional art in Bangladesh.



Potter

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Nagorik Natyangan Drama Festival 2005



Preview

Aami Birangana Bolchhi

ERSHAD KAMOL

Aami Birangana Bolchhi, written by Dr Neelima Ibrahim, is an autobiography of a *Birangana* (woman war victim). After many years of our Liberation War, many people have manipulated our freedom move-

ment for their personal interest. As a result, the history of Liberation has become a kind of enigma to the new generation. Through the autobiography of a *Birangana* (woman war victim), Neelima Ibrahim has tried to present some facts of the dark days of 1971.

Lucky Inam presents the autobi-

ography through script reading on stage, an experimental theatrical presentation to introduce a new play, which Nagorik Natyangan stages today at the National Theatre Stage at Shilpkala Academy.

Mahmudul Islam Selim designs the set and light of the play.

Swikarokti



A scene from the play Swikarokti

Ahash, a theatre troupe from India, stages *Swikarokti* today at the National Theatre Stage as part of the week-long drama festival arranged by Nagorik Natyangan.

Shekhor Samaddar has adapted Ariel Dorfman's play which is set

against the backdrop of the communal conflict which took place in Gujarat on February 28, 2002. Through the confession of the criminals of the Hindu-Muslim riot, the playwright has shown how the innocents suffered during the com-

munal conflict. Shekhor directs *Swikarokti*. Ajit Roy designs the set while Badal Das designs light in the play.

Malay Chattopadhyay, Mili Samaddar, Shekhor Samaddar and others perform in *Swikarokti*.

Panchashwar's tribute to Pratima and Geeta



Nasima Shaheen performing at the programme

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

In the busy, mechanised city life of today, there is little time for traditional Bangla cultural pursuits. Among them is *Jalsa* (musical soiree), which is fast losing its popularity. However, there are a few organisations which strive to promote our age old traditions by arranging appealing musical programmes. Panchashwar, is one such organisation. The *Jalsa* organised by Panchashwar, recently, was a delightful treat for the audience. Among the high points of the programme was the rendition of the songs of the legendary Pratima Bandyopadhyay and Geeta Dutta.

The programme was an appropriate tribute to the two great singers. Artistes Nasima Shaheen, Farhana Akther and Jannat-e-Ferdousi took the audience on a nostalgic sojourn through 20 timeless songs of the two singers. *Amar haat dhorey tumi, Eka gaan likho aamar Jonno, Tomay keno lagche eto chena, Bash baganer mathar upor, Boro shadha jagey, Tomar duchochhey amar swapno*, among the 11 songs by Pratima, were rendered in a distinctive style on the occasion.

The audience went down memory lane with Geeta's popular nine songs *Nishi rat baka chaad, Ei shundar sharmali shondhai, Tumi je amar, Tumi bina e phagun, Jak na muchhey jak* and others as the three promising singers enthralled the audience with their renditions.

Musical evening at Biswa Sahitya Kendra



A view of the programme

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Satyajit Ray Film Society organised a solo music recital *Eki Shonar Aloy Jibon Bhoroi Diley* by an upcoming artiste Sayma Rahaman Labonya at the Biswa Sahitya Kendra auditorium recently. The programme was dedicated to the celebrated music composer and actor Khan Ataur Rahman who contributed immensely to the golden era of cinema in our country. This is the second such programme organised by the society.

Sayma rendered some of the beautiful movie songs of the golden era of Bangla cinema such as *Gaan hoye eley, Jar chhaya porechhey moner aynayte*,

Akasher hately achhey and Eki shonar aloy. The first song of the programme *Gaan hoye eley*, originally rendered by Ferdousi Rahman, was performed well by Sayma. The selection of her songs was appropriate. The auditorium was filled to its capacity as people have scant opportunity to listen to these melodious songs live. And these all-time hit songs have never lost their appeal.

However, the programme lacked professionalism. The accompanists and the acoustic system failed to do justice to the songs of yesteryears. A continual effort is needed to revive the music of the golden era.

Five nominated acts will open Grammys

AP, New York

The 47th Annual Grammy Awards show will open with music acts that could give *Live Aid* a run for its money.

The show, taking place on February 13 from the Staples Centre in Los Angeles, will begin with performances by five nominated artistes: the Black Eyed Peas, Gwen Stefani (performing with Eve), Los Lonely Boys, Maroon5 and Franz Ferdinand. They will perform separately across three stages at the start of

the broadcast, the Recording Academy announced Tuesday.

Usher, who is nominated for eight Grammys, joins previously announced performers Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony, Green Day, Alicia Keys, U2 and Tim McGraw, the Recording Academy also announced. Also planned is a tribute to Ray Charles featuring Bonnie Raitt and Billy Preston, and a salute to Southern Rock with Gretchen Wilson, and others.

Queen Latifah will host the show.



TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTW
News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55am, 12:10pm, 2:00pm, 3:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm.
News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 1:00pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm.

News (English) at 3:00pm, 10:00pm. Late Night News (Bangla and English) at 11:30pm.

CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 7:15pm, 9:00pm, 10:30, 12:15am. Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30pm.

ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.

Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30pm.

CHANNEL 1
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.

Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m., 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00pm and 8:00 pm.

ntv
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm. News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.

Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30pm.

TARA BANGLA
News (headlines) (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm. Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm. Tara News (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD
Every hour on the hour

ATN
Shubhachan Nin Satellite Programme
10:00 Rongin Drama: Aarai Tola Bari

12:15 Shongbad Poter Pata Thekey

12:30 Health Programme

01:05 Loukik Bangla

02:05 Computer Time

02:30 Bangla Feature Film

05:30 Protichitra

06:00 Khabar: Desh Janapad

06:10 Development Issue

Based Programme

07:00 News Headlines, Share Market, Weather Forecast

08:25 Protidin Bangladesh

08:30 Drama of the Week

10:25 Teknaf Theke Tetulia

10:40 Amader Ain

12:05 Satellite Programme

CHANNEL 1

09:30 Shongbad Potre

Bangladesh and Public Reaction

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