

CULTURAL FEAS

Ekushey Special

Exhibition

Title: Repro illustration exhibition

Artists: 43 painters including Zainul

Abedin, Qamrul Hasan, Murtaza

Bashir

Organiser: The Liberation War

Museum

Venue: Auditorium, the Liberation

War Museum

Date: February 17-23

Ekushey Special

Programmes

Title: Amar Ekushey 2005

Organiser: Bangla Academy

Venue: Bangla Academy premises

Date: February 01-28

Schedule

February 01-28

Ekushey Book Fair

Time: Weekdays: From 3pm to 9pm;

Weekends: From 11am to 12noon

and 2pm to 9pm; On Feb 21: from

8am to 9pm

February 22

Programme: Bangla Academy

Literature Award 2004 giving cere-

mony

Participants: Mansur Musa and the

awardees

Time: 4pm

February 23

Programme: Cultural programme

Time: 6pm

February 24

Programme: Cultural programme

Time: 6pm

February 25

Programme: Children's poetry

recitation and art competition, Prize

distribution followed by cultural

programme

Time: 9am

February 26

Programme: Cultural programme

Time: 6pm

February 27

Programme: Cultural programme

Time: 6pm

February 28

Programme: Closing ceremony of

the Ekushey book fair and

announcement of the best book-stalls

followed by cultural programme

Time: 4pm

Musical

programme

Title: Phele Asha Diner Gaan

Organiser: Srijan

Venue: Sufia Kamal Auditorium,

Shahbag

Date: February 27 at 6:30pm.

Award Giving Ceremony

Title: Srijonishil Natoyatosh 2005

Tanustri Padak

Artists: Rameendu Majumdar,

Mamunur Rashid, Nasiruddin Yousuf,

Kabirul Islam Ratan

Organiser: Natyadharma

Venue: Mahila Shamiti Auditorium

Date: February 22, at 6pm

Exhibition

Title: Children's Painting Exhibition

Artists: Child artists ranging 4 to 16

years of age

Organiser: Artiste Muhammad Abu

Selim

Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road

15A, Dhamondi

Date: February 25-March 01, from

3pm to 8pm

Title: Third Solo Exhibition

Artiste: Ronni Ahmed

Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur

Road

Time: 18-26 February, from 10am

12am and 5pm to 9pm

Title: Nature and Life

Artist: Golam Faruque Bebul

Venue: Gallery Chitrak, House 21,

Road 4, Dhamondi

Date: February 14-24, from 10am to

8pm

Alpana: A medley of exquisite colours and designs

KAVITA CHARANJI

LOWERS, animals, birds, folk art -- these are the recurrent motifs of Alpana. This art form adds to the ambience of occasions such as marriages and special days in our tradition. Yesterday on Ekushey, Alpana was visible once more at Shaheed Minar, roads and other venues. To gauge the popularity of this art and changes over the past, The Daily Star spoke to Mahmudul Haque, Director General, Bangladesh National Museum and Rafi Haque, artist and general secretary of Society for Promotion of Bangladeshi Art.

Mahmudul Haque

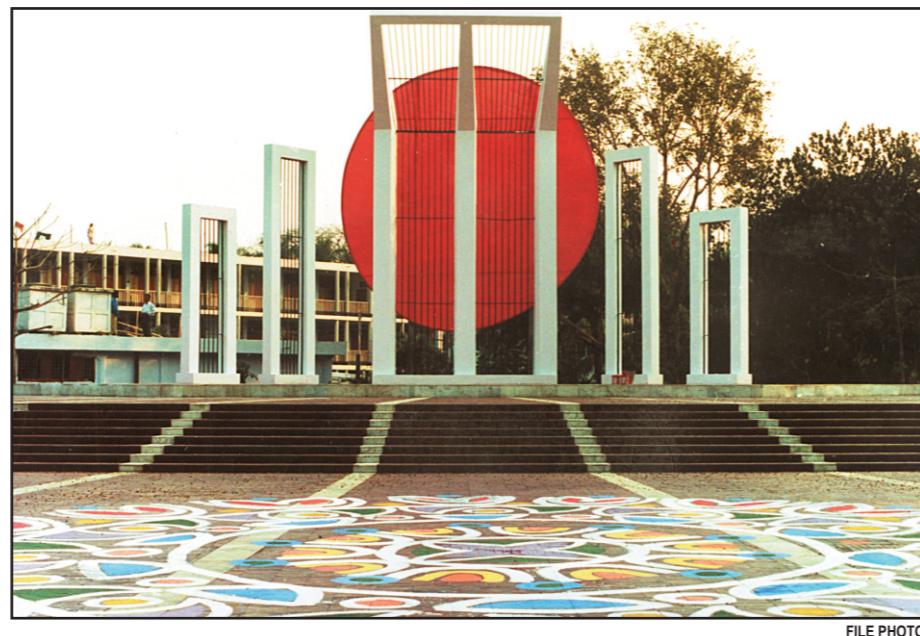
In Haque's words, "Alpana, a very popular form of art, has a long history. Though the motifs are mostly flowers, there are also folk motifs, horses, birds and elephants. The techniques of Alpana differ. In the villages it is made out of rice powder. Now in the cities, it is mostly made in acrylic.

There have been changes in the form and design over the years. For instance, people are experimenting with geometrical forms. Just as life is changing, so are designs. People want to introduce an element of innovation.

"I used to do Alpana as a student and later teacher at the Institute of Fine Arts. This was in front of the Shaheed Minar. Though I no longer do Alpana because of my various commitments, as in previous years, the roads around Shaheed Minar are decorated with Alpana."

Rafi Haque

"I primarily do etchings and lithographs. I first did Alpana in Shaheed Minar for Ekushey, February 18 years ago along with my students and teacher, Professor of Arts College,



Geometrical designs adorn the Shaheed Minar

FILE PHOTO

Institute of Fine Arts Hashem Khan. He has

made immense contributions to Alpana and has his own design books for this art form. Each and every student from first or second year continues to do Alpana for Ekushey.

"Alpana is a long tradition in our country. Alpana is used on many festive occasions like Ekushey, marriages and Bengali festivals like Pahela Baisakh. It is popular because it is related to every movement in the country. Udichi was the first cultural organisation to start Alpana here (from the 1950s). They are still doing Alpana at Pahela Baisakh every year.

"The motifs are usually designs such as flowers and leaves. Human figures, birds and

animals are other motifs, which I saw in India. Basically Alpana is done from rice flour in the villages.

"Every artist has done Alpana at some point of time or other it is part of the course. Other eminent people doing Alpana are Hashem Khan, Chandrashekhar Dey, Habibur Rahman, Quayum Chowdhury, Kamrul Hasan, Shishir Bhattacharjee and Samar Jit Roychowdhury.

"Shaheed Minar is a popular venue for Alpana at Ekushey. I participated in the art work of Alpana with other artists this year as well." In a poetic vein, he adds, "The inspiration comes from the soul; it cannot be forced."

Tonatuni's album released



(L-R) Flutist Maniruzzaman, Mujibur Rahman Dilu and Mahbubur Rahman Joynal, seen with Language Movement veteran Gazil Haque (C) unveiling the CD.

Tonatuni Productions, recently released a VCD and CD at a local hotel.

Language Movement veteran Gazil Haque unveiled the CD cover *Egaro* of flutist Maniruzzaman, dedicated to the language martyrs and freedom-fighters.

The programme was followed by two dance compositions directed by Kabirul Islam Ratan and Deepa Khondokar. Among others Mahbubur Rahman Joynal and Mujibur Rahman Dilu of Tonatuni Productions were also present on the occasion.

Eminent writer Rabeya Khatun unveiled the cover of the rhyme-book *Tonatuni Chhora Shuni* by

journalist Hasan Hafiz. Drubha Esh does the illustration and cover of the book.

Finally, Shakila Zafar unveiled the 2-D cartoon animation VCD *Tonatuni Jhuri*. The audio and video CDs and the rhyme-book are available at the Ekushey Book Fair.

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Binodini
A play on a pioneer theatre artiste

ERSHAD KAMOL

Some theatregoers have a scant knowledge of the era when urban theatre in a European form was introduced in the subcontinent during British rule. In those days, harlots performed the female characters since women from a conservative background were not allowed to act in theatre. Binodini Dasi, an actress with a dark past, made tremendous contribution to our theatre in the 19th century.

Dhaka Theatre presented the premiere show of Binodini Dasi's autobiography-based narrative *Binodini*, recently at the Mahila Samity Stage. It was a solo performance by Shimul Yousuf. Before the show, Nasiruddin Yousuf, the chief of Dhaka Theatre, said that through the premiere show of *Binodini*, the troupe commemorates the martyrs of the Language movement.

Simon Zakaria, with guidance from Selim Al Deen, Nasiruddin Yousuf and Shimul Yousuf, has dramatised *Binodini*. During the dramatisation, Simon has used two

Shimul Yousuf performs a solo act in *Binodini*

autobiographies by Binodini Dasi—Aamar Kotha and Aamar Abhinoj Jibon, several poems written by Binodini and a few reference books on this pioneering female theatre artiste of the subcontinent.

Simon Zakaria has adapted these elements well. He has successfully conveyed the feelings and emotions of Binodini Dasi, in course of her performance in different characters. He has narrated some concealed facts like the struggle of the artiste throughout her life, the deception that she faced, and an overall view of the commercial theatre of that time.

Shadu Bhasha (Formal Language) has been used as the language of the play.

Through the narrative of the artiste, director Nasiruddin Yousuf has unfolded the autobiography of Binodini. He has used a combination of narration, dialogue, dance, songs and physical movements. As it was a solo performance, for the transformation of a single artiste from one character to another, Yousuf followed the indigenous *palagan* form. In some flashbacks, that reveal some remarkable performances by Binodini Dasi in the 19th century theatre, Nasiruddin has used a curtain in the shape of proscenium arch opening.

Kamaluddin Kabir has created an artistic metal-made stagecraft. A huge circle at the backstage and few figures symbolically present the inner world of the pioneer artiste Binodini Dasi.

However, the light design by Ishrat Nishat needs to be developed. It was often difficult to capture the expressions and gestures of solo performer Shimul Yousuf. Lighting cues failed to follow the acting cues. More symbolic light effects could have been used.

Shimul, clad in eye-catching attire, excelled herself in the songs, dance and choreography. She effectively expressed Binodini's emotion. However, she could not maintain equal skill while playing the male character.

Dhaka Theatre's production *Binodini* is dedicated to three prominent late female theatre artistes of the sub-continent—Tripti Mitra, Keya Chakravarty and Najma Anwar.



Visitors admire the lanterns at a park to celebrate the 15th day of the Chinese Lunar New Year in Shenyang, northeastern China's Liaoning province on February 20. The day is known as the Chinese version of Valentine's Day.



Prithiviraj, an upcoming talent in classical music, rendered a solo performance on pure classical music at the Alliance Francaise recently. The programme was organised by Gayakee.

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

News Bulletin

TV

CHANNEL-i

09:30 Shubhecha Nin

09:00 Satellite Programmes

12:15 Shangbad Potre

Thekey

12:30 Shasthya Tattha

01:05 Cartoon Film

01:30 Shobor Jonyo Shikkha

02:05 Hater Kachhey

Computer

02:30 Shikhangan

03:05 Shukhi Porbar

03:30 Campus

04:05 Shangeeta

04:30 Open University

05:05 Probash Mela

05:30 Mithoshkanya

06:10 Shondhymaloti

07:00 News Headlines, Share

Forecast

07:30 Gaan