

CULTURAL FEAST

Photography Exhibition

Title: Aesthetic Beauty of Trees
Photographer: Ismat Jahan
Venue: Art & Soul Gallery, House 16 Road 36, Gulshan Avenue
Date: April 5-18
Time: 11:00am-8pm

Title: The Lovers and the Leavers
Photographer: Abeer Hoque
Venue: Drk Gallery, House 58, Road 15A, Dhanmondi
Date: April 5-10
Time: 3:00pm-8pm

Documentary Film Screening

Title: Doctor Johra Kazi
Venue: National Museum Auditorium, Shahbag
Date: April 7
Time: 4pm

Bhawaiya Festival

Organiser: Bhawaiya Angon
Venue: Shawkol Osman Memorial Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbag
Date: April 8
Time: 3pm

Madan Mohan: A spiritual artist with diverse interests

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

GOSHAH Madan Mohan is a man gifted with multiple skills. He is a *baul* singer and composes spiritual songs -- related to both Hinduism and Islam. Born in Mymensingh town, Madan's creativity was apparent at a tender age. Inspired by his father late Makhan Sadhu, a prominent *kirtan* singer, Madan involved himself in the cultural arena and earned recognition.

Renowned in the locale as a *baul shadhak* (devotee), Madan's passion for music and words is still at its peak at the age of 67. Having been acquainted with several *sadhus* (spiritual leaders), he used to recite from Geeta at Chaitanya Charitamrita at Durgabari Temple, Haluaghat Radhanath Sheba Ashram and other temples in the district.

He has composed over 400 spiritual songs. Quite a few renowned *baul* artists of the country have rendered songs composed by Madan Mohan.



Madan Mohan (C) along with other musicians

Eminent *baul* artistes of the Mymensingh region as well as from other parts of the country including Sunil Karmaker, Jalal Uddin, Abdul Berek, Abdul Mannan, and Sadir

Uddin have attained much acclaim rendering songs composed by Madan.

"I received my first lessons from my father and I had the opportunity

to get acquainted with noted scholars of the country including Hafiz Maulana Faizur Rahman, Probr Goswami and Ambika Charan Goswami who played a key role in my spiritual development," said Madan. He also added that his parents were best at *Kirtania* and they performed at festivals sponsored by the then Zamindars of Muktagacha.

Madan Mohan is a jeweller by profession. "I made a portrait of former President of Pakistan General Ayub Khan using 25 tola gold which is now preserved at a museum in Pakistan", said Madan adding he also crafted the Lila Devi Sheild, a crest for football tournament for the junior level students.

Madan Mohan arranges programmes featuring spiritual songs on various religious occasions where his disciples including *baul* artists and people from different religious groups come together. He intends to publish a book titled *Shatyer Shondhaney* (Searching for Truth) containing all his songs.



ERSHAD KAMOL

The International Mother Language day is observed all over the world now. However, the ethnic minorities in Bangladesh are deprived of education in their own distinct languages. Abidur Rashid Mamun's docu-magazine *Mayek Kantha* features the necessity of education for ethnic minorities in their languages. Doing that Mamun has focused on the ongoing pre-schooling programmes initiated by several NGOs at different corners of the country, impediments to running these programmes and opinions of cultural personalities on the issue. The fact that only two ethnic groups -- Chakma and Marma -- have their own alphabets, has also been featured in the docu-magazine.

Mayek Kantha was screened at the Liberation War Museum on April 5 as part of the ongoing Ethnic Diversity Council. The screening was followed by a discussion.

The programme was presided over by Professor Zehadul Karim. Eminent educationist Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui was the chief guest and Shahana Hayat, country director of Volunteer Oversees, Bangladesh was the special guest. Among other discussants were Dr Dwijendranath Sarkar and Bibhash Chakraborti. Abul Momen, editor of Chittagong Edition of the daily *Prothom Alo* was the moderator of the programme.

Discussants at the programme pointed out the hurdles in implementing education for minority groups in their own languages. They said that the educated individuals from the minority groups should work at the schools to teach their people. Discussants also focused on the responsibilities of the government.

Shahana Hayat said, "Ethnicity, language and culture are interre-

Ethnic Diversity Council

'Mayek Kantha' screened



A scene from the docu-magazine

lated. So, for the existence of their identities, languages of these ethnic groups should be preserved."

Abul Momen said, "A few of these ethnic minorities have their own alphabets. They need to write their own textbooks but writing textbooks in any language is a challenging job. Then the question arises 'are they capable of writing textbooks on their own?'"

Several ethnic minority groups live together in one area. Sometimes, the total number of population of a smaller community is around 200. Under these circumstances it is really difficult to run a school where children of an ethnic group will learn up to primary level in their own language. NGO schools are only preparing the children of these minority groups to adapt in mainstream education. I believe a language institute involving experts and the representatives of the minority groups can solve the crisis."

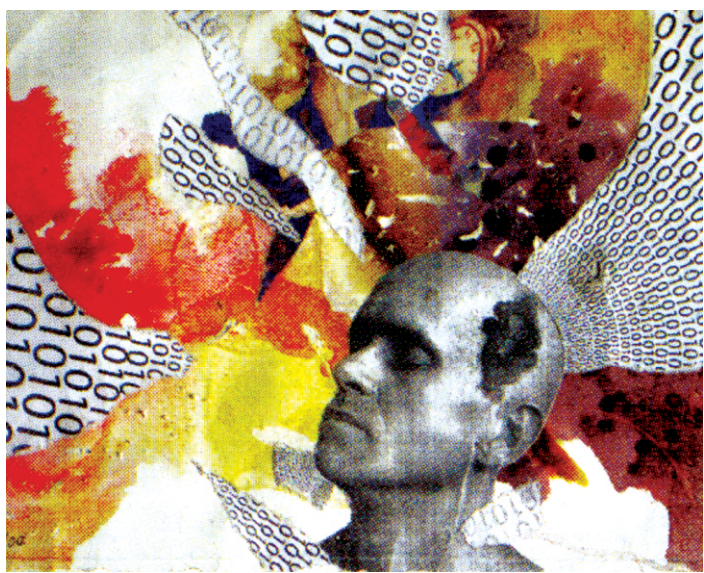
Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui said, "Like the English language, Bangla can also be enriched by incorporating elements from languages of these ethnic groups. In this case it's necessary to develop these languages."

Professor Zehadul Karim said, "The ethnic groups, which do not have their own alphabets, are strongly divided among themselves. As most of them have converted to Christianity, they use 'Roman' alphabet for their language. And only a few who believe that they have to live with Bengalis and need to learn Bangla for higher education use Bangla alphabet for their own language. So, we should work together to overcome this dilemma."

At the end of the programme, Dr Shourabh Shikdar responded to questions from the audience on the documentary. He agreed with the audience that many ethnic minority groups such as Rakhains have not been featured in *Mayek Kantha*.

Man's mechanised existence

Biplob Kor's first solo exhibition



Artworks by Biplob Kor

FAYZA HAQ

Biplob Kor has tried to give his work a new angle, using parts of digital machines in his paintings. Artworks by the young artist were on display recently at the Zoom Gallery of Alliance Francaise at the exhibition *Binary Oppositions*.

In the series *Automaton*, Biplob has tried to show the relationship between man and machine in the 21st century. He has taken different parts of the computer and used them as collage in his paintings. "Man and machine are two different things that are coexisting," Biplob says. In *Alternate generation-2* he has presented peoples' current preoccupation with test-tube babies. The piece shows a large foetus surrounded by smaller ones along with instruments and machines. "I'm merely presenting what is taking place today. I'm not moralising or taking sides," he

says.

Automaton-5 has a machine placed on a human head. Several wheels have been used in the composition. Everything is grey, black and brown. *Automaton-1* is a conglomeration of machine parts arranged around the image of a moon, which suggests that today even a romantic image can be mechanised. "This is the era of machines," Biplob stresses once more, "machines are made by men but today men have become totally dependent on machines."

Another painting contains a head with paper in different colours -- red, yellow brown and black -- falling all over it. *Digital time-3* shows a *Shadhu* (holy man) in red, reading a palm. "Old beliefs and new, coexist," Biplob comments. The human figures are surrounded by digital codes. *Automaton-3* deals with the subject of test-tube babies again and contains small human limbs.

Automaton -2 features a human figure that is connected to many machine parts. These paintings are in sombre brown, black and white.

Biplob has been influenced by Cubism's collage along with Dadaism. Picasso and Dali are his favourite artists. In Bangladesh, Dhali Al Mamun, Nisar Hussain and Mahbubur Rahman are his artists of choice.

Artist Rashid Amin says, "Biplob tries to do something which is different. He breaks up images of machines and mingles them with human forms. This gives the effect of collage. He tries to show how man has become mechanised in an allegorical manner. He is definitely unconventional."

Nisar Hussain says, "I was one of Biplob's teachers in his Master's studies in UDA. He was encouraged to go into new fields. He has incorporated three-dimensional objects in his two-dimensional paintings."

Biplob has taken part in eight major group exhibitions.



Painting competition to commemorate World Health Day



Youngsters participate in the competition

Social Marketing Company (SMC) organised a children's painting contest recently at Shishu academy, according to a press release. The event was held on the occasion of World Health Day (today, April 7). The event was a colourful occasion with hundreds of young ones participating and was sponsored by Orsaline-N and Orsaline Fruity, SMC's flagship brands.

The contest was held to generate awareness on the threats of health

hazards among the young. Cultural personality Sara Zaker attended the event. Each participant received a certificate. From hundreds of entries, the judges -- Tarun Ghosh, Kanakchanpa Chakma and Naima Haque -- selected 12 best works. The winners will be awarded later at a reception.

SMC's managing director, Perveen Rashid; head of marketing, Mahbubur Rahman were also present at the occasion.

Helen Mirren in 'National Treasure' sequel

Oscar winner Helen Mirren has signed up for the adventure sequel *National Treasure: The Book Of Secrets*, being directed by Jon Turteltaub. Ed Harris is another new addition to the cast, which is led by Nicolas Cage reprising his role as treasure hunter Ben Gates. Mirren will play Gates' mother while Harris is on villain duty.

The film, set for release in December, sees Gates attempt to discover 'the truth' about the murder of Abraham Lincoln using missing pages from the diary of assassin John Wilkes Booth.

Source: Internet



On the same evening Palakar staged *Mangula* at the Experimental Theatre Stage. *Mangula*, written by Golam Shafiq and directed by Aminur Rahman Mukul, portrays the struggle of the Hajong community in Bangladesh.

Performed by Bengali actors, chronological history of oppression on the Hajong community has been presented in the play. The minority group living by the river Sumeshwari in Netrokona, has a long history of struggle for existence and securing rights. Many lives have been sacrificed in the struggle against feudal lords and the British Raj. Under Moni Singh's leadership, *Beo* (weaving) -- the only means of their livelihood, becomes the most important instrument of their resistance. Even in dire straits, the Hajongs continue their struggle.

Actors of Palakar in *Mangula*

TV GUIDE

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

* News Bulletin

BTV

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

News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.

News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.

Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

CHANNEL-I

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

ATN BANGLA

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

News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm

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

CHANNEL 1

News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm, 12:30am

BANGLAVISION

News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 2:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.

News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00pm

News Headlines (English) at 9:05pm

BTV

09:05 Shomapti

11:15 Musical Programme

11:40 Shukhi Poribar

12:05 Drama Serial: Shubarnolota

12:30 Ma O Shishur Kotha

01:00 Bishwa Protidin

01:30 Mati O Manush

02:15 Sisimpur

02:40 Bangla Feature Film

05:05 Nobo Anonday Jago

06:10 Bishwa Shashitho Dibosh

06:40 Cricket Cricket

07:15 ICC World Cup 2007: Bangladesh Vs South Africa

ATN BANGLA

10:30 AKTEL Onnyodrishti

11:05 Shopner

12:15 Musical programme

12:45 Shathidin

01:30 Nari

03:45 Shobar Jonyo

04:20 Shesh Okhor

05:00 Gram Gonjir Khobor

05:30 Talkshow

06:20 Musical Programme

08:00 Mega Serial: The New Sabuj Opera

08:40 Drama Serial: Laal Neel Beguni

09:20 Drama Serial: Ek Jonomey

Channel i

08:30 Shokaler Gaan

09:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh

09:45 Public Reaction

09:50 Tritomatra

11:05 Na Bola Kotha

12:30 Citycell Taroka

Kathan

01:05 Ebong Cinemar

Gaan

01:30 Shangbadpotre

Bangladesh

01:45 Public Reaction

02:30 Fashion Show: Paris comes Dhaka

03:05 Banglalink Moneytalk

04:50 Shothier

Shondhaney

05:30 Muktiyudho Protidin

06:00 Aktel Bishwa Cup

Dhamaka

06:20 Cricktalk Bishwacup

special

07:50 Drama Serial: Bhober Haat

09:35 Hridoye Mati O

Manush

10:00 Drama Serial: Nishidho Bonobhumi

12:00 GramreenPhone

Ajker Shanbad Potro

BANGLAVISION

10:10 Talkshow: Apnar Ki

Kichhu Bolar Achhey

11:10 Shomoy Ashomoy

11:40 Media Bhuban

02:40 Drama Serial: Kachhey Durey

03:10 Drama Serial: Dokhinayon

04:15 Public Forum

05:00 Ebong Classer

Bairey

05:40 Diner Sheshey

PICK OF THE DAY



ICC World Cup 2007

On Btv at 7:15pm

Bangladesh Vs South Africa

Providence Stadium, Guyana



Paris comes to Dhaka

On Channel i at 2:30pm

Showcasing the latest trends in fashion

06:25 Musical Programme

06:45 Bishwacup Protidin

08:15 Drama Serial: Krishnopokho

08:55 Talkshow: Amar Ami

09:30 Drama Serial: Bachelor Dompoti

STAR PLUS

09:00 Bolly V - Star Plus

09:05 V Trailers - Star Plus

09:30 Saans

10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus

10:30 Shararat

11:00 Akkad Bakkad

Bambey Bo

11:30 Sonpuri

12:00 Karishma Ka

Karishma

12:25 Bolly V - Star Plus

12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus

09:00 Thir13en Ghosts

10:35 Wildfires

12:05 Patient 14

01:50 Her Minor Thing

STAR PLUS

09:00 Bolly V - Star Plus

09:05 V Trailers - Star Plus

09:30 Saans

10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus

10:30 Shararat

11:00 Akkad Bakkad

Bambey Bo

11:30 Sonpuri

12:00 Karishma Ka

Karishma

12:25 Bolly V - Star Plus

12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus

12:55 Bolly V - Star Plus

01:00 Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi

01:55 Bolly V - Star Plus

02:00 V Trailers - Star Plus

02:25 Bolly V - Star Plus

02:30 Kalash

03:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii

05:00 V Trailers - Star Plus

05:25 Bolly V - Star Plus

05:30 Krishna Kathaiyen

06:30 Aladdin

07:00 That's So Raven

07:25 Bolly V - Star Plus

07:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi

Bahu Thi

08:00 Kasauti Zindagii Kay

Lucky