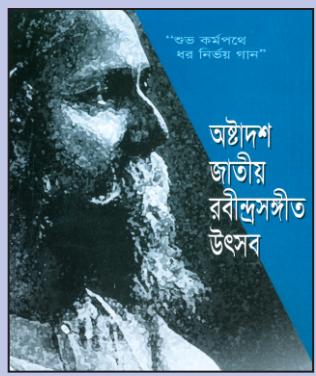


CULTURAL FEAST

18th National Tagore Song Festival



Organiser: Bangladesh Rabindrasangeet Shilpi Sangstha
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library
Date: May 5, 6, 7 & 8

Grand Group Art Exhibition

145 art works of renowned Bangladeshi artists on display
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, F/40-41, D.C.C. North Super Market 2nd Circle, Gulshan
Date: April 28-May 28
Time: 9:00am to 7:00pm (Friday closed)

Group Theatre Festival 2007

Organiser: Group Theatre Forum, Chittagong
Venue: Chittagong Shilpakala Academy Auditorium

Date: May 6
Play: Koroti
Troupe: Kathak Theatre
Date: May 7

Play: Ekti Obastob Golpo
Troupe: Gononatyo Shomprodoy
Date: May 8
Play: Modhuchokro
Troupe: Theatre Workshop Chittagong

Date: May 9
Play: Daydhbar
Troupe: Angon Theatre Unit
Date: May 10
Play: Pagla Ghor
Troupe: Protinidhi Natyo Shomprodoy
Date: May 11
Play: Chhayanabrita
Troupe: Shobdo Natyo Chorcha Kendro
Date: May 12
Play: Chhayanabrita
Troupe: Theatre Guild

European Union Cultural Festival

Title: Celebrating EU-Bangladesh Relations Through Culture
Organiser: European Commission, in association with partner organisations
Date: May 3-16

Painting exhibition
Artist: Shambhu Acharya
Venue: Alliance Francaise
Date: May 3-16

Photographic display
Title: Bangladesh Matters: Capturing the EU's Development Co-operation
Venue: Drik Gallery
Date: May 8-12

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Cryptic Reality
Artist: Abdus Sattar Taufiq
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University
Date: April 30-May 6
Time: 11am-8pm

18th National Rabindra Sangeet Festival begins



Artistes of BRSSS render songs, Atiqul Haque Chowdhury speaks at the programme



Atiqul Haque Chowdhury for his contribution in promoting quality TV plays. An ecstatic Chowdhury said, "My work has been recognised nationally quite a few times but I'll always cherish this honour BRSSS has bestowed upon me."

The inaugural programme was presided over by Tagore exponent and singer Kalim Sharafi. Noted educationist Professor Anisuzzaman was the chief guest.

The speeches were followed by music. Artistes Azizur Rahman Tuhin, Sajed Akbar, Pijush Barua, Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, Sukanto Mitra, Rana Saha, Kazi Md. Zakaria, Ashoke Saha and others performed Tagore songs.

Ekushey Television is the media partner of the festival.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The eighteenth National Rabindra Sangeet Festival organised by Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha (BRSSS) began on May 4 at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library at Shahbagh.

The seven-day festival will feature solo performances by around 150 noted and upcoming Tagore artistes and group presentations by 10 cultural organisations from all corners of the country.

At the inaugural programme Tagore artiste and general secretary of BRSSS, Tanvir Mahmud emphasised on the proposals BRSSS made at the previous Rabindra Sangeet Festival. The

proposals include: (1) Birth anniversaries of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam should be commemorated by declaring them as National Holidays, (2) Organising special programmes on Tagore and Nazrul anniversary should be mandatory at educational institutions starting from primary schools to universities, so that our youth are well aware of our national heritage and culture, (3) Dhaka City Corporation should name major streets after Tagore, Fakir Laloni Shah and Hason Raja, (4) Establishing a Rabindra Academy for research and high studies on Tagore's work, (5) Local and multi-national organisations should spend at least half of the funds intended to be used to support cultural activities, on activities related to authentic Bangladeshi

traditions, (6) Shilaiddha Kuthibari should be remodelled and should look the way it initially did. The changes made to the edifice during the last government's tenure are not acceptable. Obstructions to the entrance of Kuthibari should be removed so that the site is easily accessible to tourists, (7) Locations at Patishor and Dakhkhindhi that can be of great interest to Tagore researchers and enthusiasts should be preserved.

This year the festival is dedicated to the memory of noted Tagore exponent Waheedul Haque. BRSSS hopes it can carry on the movement initiated by Haque to encourage young talented Tagore singers from all over the country.

At the programme, BRSSS honoured renowned media personal-

Aranyak Natya Dal stage 'Swapno Nagar'

Theatre troupe Aranyak Natya Dal staged special programmes at the Central Shaheed Minar premises to mark the May Day, says a press release. For the last 24 years the organisation has been holding such programmes.

Chief guest, eminent artist Mustafa Manowar, in his speech emphasised the importance of safeguarding the rights of the workers.

"The ordinary workers of our country are very often neglected. Despite their immense contribution to economy, they live in extreme hardship and poverty," he said. Actor Mamunur Rashid, founder, Aranyak Natyodol also spoke at the event.

The programme featured recitation by Poet Nirmalendu Goon, Hassan Arif and Mahidul Islam. Jannati Ferdousi rendered songs.

The day wrapped up with the staging of a street theatre 'Swapno Nagar'. The play directed by Amanul Haq was based on the disaster at the Spectrum Garment factory at Savar that led to the death of several garment workers.

Potters as seen through a child's eyes

FAYZA HAQ

The library of Alliance Francaise was recently overflowing with visitors. They had come to see four-year old Prottoy Karmakar's photography on the life of potters. One has seen the child, earlier, in many art galleries and public places shooting with the little camera slung from his neck.

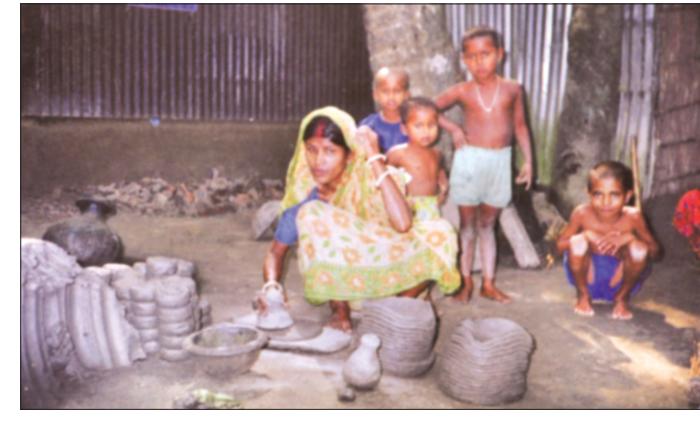
When his mother was posted in Mymensingh, his father, Proshanto, had gone there too accompanied by Prottoy. A couple of years back, the child playing with his father's camera, took a promising picture of the people in Mymensingh. It had good composition sense and pleased the father. After that he was given an auto Yashika camera with which Prottoy took pictures of the countryside. His father chose the topic of the potters (pals) and he used five reels on that subject. This is the background of the exhibition.

"Many people in our family are into art like me and my uncle Kalidas Karmakar. My father, when he retired, drew many pictures while our mother did 'nakshikantha'. When I paint at night, Prottoy sits at my side and works with paintbrush and paints," says Proshanto, an

acclaimed photographer and artist himself.

Laurent Jalicos, Deputy Director of Alliance Francaise adds, "It appears that art runs in the vein of the Karmakar family. We had Kalidas's exhibition a few days back and now we present Prottoy in the library. With a little help from the father and good framing, the pictures are amazing."

One of the pictures present a group of potters surrounded by pottery pieces.



A potter's family

The children wear shorts, except for the girl at the back, and their legs are covered with dust. The mother is surrounded by clay utensils. Another photograph shows an old woman surrounded by upturned utensils almost as large as herself. Children studying in the village home also make an interesting composition. So does the picture of the mother combing the daughter's and that of another female potter putting the finishing touches to her work.

One of the pictures present a group of potters surrounded by pottery pieces.

Satyajit Ray's 86th birthday celebrated

AHSAN HABIB

To observe the 86th birth anniversary of legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray, Bangladesh Film Institute Alumni Association (BFIAA) organised a seminar titled 'Shimai Opere Satyajit: Ekti Onuporona (Satyajit Beyond Boundaries: An Inspiration)' and a film screening on May 4. The programme was held at the Bangladesh Film Archive Auditorium.

Shabin Ashfarah Khondokar and Rafael Ahsan presented a paper in the seminar. Eminent filmmakers Tarique Masud and Tanvir Mokammel along with Dr. Mohammad Jahangir Hossain, president of BFIAA were the discussants at the programme.

"Satyajit uses the tools to transcend structural shortcomings such as technological or monetary barriers to produce international standard films. He remains an inspiration for filmmakers all over the world who have limited resources to work with yet committed to go beyond boundaries," noted Shabin and Rafael. They also examined the 'economy of expres-



Tanvir Mokammel speaks at the seminar

PHOTO: STAR

sion' in Ray's films, sets and motifs. The discussants considered some of earlier criticisms of Ray's films now seem misplaced and premature.

Tarique Masud focused on handling the actors in Ray's films and his ability to move the audience without melodrama. Tanvir

Mokammel emphasised on Ray's strong presence on the Bengali cultural scene all throughout his life with works in different mediums.

The programme ended with the screening of Ray's 'Shakha Proshakha'.

Silver jubilee staging of 'Samayer Proyojone'

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-fifth show of Theatre Art Unit's 10th production 'Samayer Proyojone' was staged at the Mahila



A scene from the play

Samity Stage on May 4. Adapted and directed by Mohammed Bari from Zahir Raihan's well-known short story with the same title, the play belongs to the school of thought that believes nothing in

this world can be achieved by a premeditated mindset. Time, is the deciding factor.

'Samayer Proyojone' is set against the backdrop of a camp in 1971 where the Freedom Fighters from different corners of the country have taken to arms against the Pakistani military regime and the collaborators. Reading the diary of a missing Freedom Fighter, named Mamun, his comrades analyse the logic behind their role in the Liberation War. They realise that it is neither leadership nor patriotism, rather changes times that have propelled them to fight for the nation.

Kamaluddin Kabir is the set designer and Nasirul Haque Khokon is the light designer of the play.

On eve of the 25th show, three freedom fighters-- Mamunur Rashid, Nasiruddin Youssif and Ferdaus Priobhashini gave their feedback on the play.

Explorers find ancient caves, paintings in Nepal

REUTERS

Explorers have discovered a series of caves decorated with ancient Buddhist paintings, set in sheer cliffs in Nepal's remote Himalayan north, leaving archaeologists excited and puzzled.

International team of scholars, archaeologists, climbers and explorers examined at least 12 cave complexes at 14,000 feet near Lo Manthang, a medieval walled city in Nepal's Mustang district, about 125 km (80 miles) northwest of Kathmandu.

The caves contain paintings that could date back as far as the 13th century, as well as Tibetan scripts executed in ink, silver and gold and pre-Christian era pottery shards.

"Who lived in those caves? When were they there, when were the caves first excavated and how did the residents access them, perched as they are on vertical cliffs?" asked

Broughton Coburn, an American member of the survey team.

"It's a compelling, marvelous mystery."

Explorers from the United States, Italy and Nepal used ice axes and ropes to climb to the caves, cutting steps in the cliff face as they went.

"These findings underscore the richness of the Tibetan Buddhist religious tradition of this area -- stretching back nearly a millennium -- as well as the artistic beauty and wide geographical reach of Newari artists," said Coburn, an expert in Himalayan conservation and development.

Newaris are ethnic Newar people renowned for skills in wall paintings and other forms of the Buddha, often with disciples, supplicants and attendants.

The site of recent findings lies north of Mount Annapurna, the world's tenth highest mountain.

Coburn said the artifacts remained unpillaged partly because the area has, until recently, been inaccessible.

One cave's mural paintings were

executed in sub-tropical themes -- containing palm trees, billowing Indian textiles and birds as well as animals, he said.

TV GUIDE

STAR

STAR MOVIES

09:00 K-9
10:45 Flatliners
01:45 The Pacifier
02:20 Fat Albert
03:55 Elvis Has Left The Building
05:25 Robots
07:00 The Greatest Game Ever Played
09:00 Alexander
11:50 Moonraker
03:00 Kids In America

STAR WORLD

09:00 Scrubs
09:30 Desperate Housewives
10:30 Prison Break
11:30 Heroes
12:30 Angela's Eyes
01:30 Third Watch
02:30 Falcon Beach
03:30 The Apprentice

NATIONAL

09:30 Chimps Unchained
10:30 Hunter Hunted
11:30 Hidden Worlds
01:30 Dangerous Encounters

GEOGRAPHIC

10:30 South Georgia Island
03:30 Fire on Board
04:30 Going To School In India
05:00 Keno, Mentor, Prince
05:30 Big Bang
06:00 Dugongs
06:30 Ferrari
07:00 Walking With Lions
09:30 Inside The Forbidden City
10:30 Airplane To Air Force
11:30 Interpol Investigates

STAR SPORTS

09:00 Malaysia Airlines Football Extra
10:30 MotoGP World Championship 2007
10:30 Future Weapons
11:30 Baby Story

PICK OF THE DAY

Bhober Haat
On channel i at 7:50pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Wahida Mallick Jolly, Humayun Faridee

Hannibal
On Discovery Channel at 8:30pm
Story of general Hannibal who took on the might of Rome

BANGALVISION

05:30 Muktidhudo Protidin
06:00 Rupantor
06:20 South Asian
07:50 Mega Serial: Bhober Haat
09:35 Drama Serial: Mon Chhute Jay
10:00 Drama Serial: Shada Ranger
10:30 Shundhikhonbey
11:00 Musical Programme

STAR PLUS

09:30 Krishna Kathaiyan
11:00 KHICHIDI
The Great Indian Laughter Challenge
12:30 Main Hoon Na
13:00 V Trailers - Star Plus

DISCOVERY

04:00 Drama Serial: Bachelor Dompoti
05:15 Gauner Kotha
06:00 Saaj Bela
06:45 Itihaser Path
07:00 Ekti Tara Duiti Tara

CHANNEL 1

08:40 Shuprobhath

Channel 1

08:40 Ekti Tara Duiti Tara

STAR

09:15 Drama Serial: Shunney Boshobash
09:30 Shomoyer Swad
09:30 Cine tune
11:00 Musical Programme

BANGLAVISION

05:15 Drama Serial: Ekti Meye
06:30 Apnar Agami
06:30 Drama Serial: Swapnochura

STAR PLUS

09:30 Drama Serial: Krishnopalokha
11:00 Ekti Meye
12:30 Main Hoon Na
13:00 V Trailers - Star Plus

DISCOVERY

04:00 Drama Serial: Choitali Jochhonay
05:15 Shunney Boshobash
06:00 Diner Sheshey
06:45 Sports Vision
07:00 Bishwacup Protidin

CHANNEL

09:30 Discover India
10:30 Future Weapons
11:30 Baby Story

STAR SPORTS

09:00 Malaysia Airlines Football Extra
10:30 MotoGP World Championship 2007
10:30 Future Weapons
11:30 Baby Story

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

News Bulletin

BTW
08:45 Bishwa Protidin
11:15 Drama

CHANNEL-i
01:00 Maa O Shihur
01:30 Mati O Manush
02:15 Laukik Bangla
02:40 Cartoon
03:05 Educational Programme
03:30 Shobar Jonno
04:00 Shotrupa
04:30 Kheladhula
05:05 TV debate
06:40 Tagore Song
07:30 Rriter Talei Talei
08:35 Drama Serial: Shukh Shur
09:00 Talk Show/ Magazine
10:30 Musical Programme

ATN BANGLA
09:15 Drama Serial: Hortexer Bibi
10:30 Talk Show: Onnordrishti
11:05 Drama: Koloram
12:15 Shushto Thakun
01:30 Shornali Shadakalo
02:40 Tele film
05:00 Gram Gonjer
Khobor