

CULTURALFEAST

Art Exhibition

Organiser: Buriganga Arts & Crafts
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (National Art Gallery), Segun Bagicha

Date: July 27 to July 31

Time: 2pm to 7pm

Title: Contemporary Artiste 4
Artistes: Bipul Shah, Rashedul Huda, Saleh Mahmud, Shaheed Ahmed Mithu

Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka

Date: July 26 to July 31

Solo Sculpture Exhibition

Title: Branches and Twigs
Artist: Ferdousi Priyabhashini
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, House 275/F, Road 27 (old), Dhamondi

Date: July 30 to August 10

Time: 12pm to 8pm

Art Exhibition

Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, House 26, Road 3, Dhamondi

Date: July 27 to August 7

Time: 12pm to 8pm

Title: Colours from Hills

Venue: Dr. K. J. Galley, House 58, Road 15A (new), 26 (old), Dhamondi R/A

Date: July 19 to August 1

Time: 3pm to 8pm

Solo Art Exhibition

Title: The Endless Mystery
Artist: Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury

Venue: Sajju Arts & Crafts, F/28, D.C.C. North Super Market, 2nd Circle Gulshan

Date: July 23 to August 7

Time: 10am to 8pm

Recitation troupe Annit launched



Professor Muhammad Younus speaks at the programme

PHOTO: STAR

ERSHAD KAMOL
THE launching programme of 'Annit', a recitation troupe with the aim to promote global culture, was held at the National Theatre Stage on July 27. Apart from highlighting Bangla poetry, Annit will also arrange programmes featuring literary works from around the world. Through recitation, Annit plans to develop a bond among different cultures. The motto of the organisation is 'for better understanding and world peace'.

Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus was the chief guest. Eminent educationist Professor Anisuzzaman was the guest speaker. M. Abdul Karim, secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and A.B.M. Abdul Hoque Chowdhury, secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, were special guests at the programme. Noor-e-Hafza, vice president of Annit, delivered the welcome speech. Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Quamrul Hassan, ndc and Mahmudul Hassan, general secretary of Annit, also spoke on the

occasion. The discussion was chaired by the President of Annit, Shafi Kamal.

Appreciating the endeavour taken by the organisation, Professor Anisuzzaman said, "There are many organisations in Bangladesh that arrange recitation programmes, however, they mainly focus on Bangla poetry. It's admirable that Annit will cover classics from other languages as well, which will surely enrich our cultural practices."

Chief guest, Professor Muhammad Yunus suggested, "In this era

of globalisation, one has to devise innovative efforts to engage the audience. Since audio-visual medium is very popular these days, presenting recitation along with choreography and music may prove to be more attractive to the viewers."

On the future plan of Annit, President of the organisation, Shafi Kamal informed, "We will arrange language based recitation session. Besides, the original poems in foreign languages (other than English) Bangla and English translations will be recited in those sessions."

The discussion was followed by a recitation programme. Child artistes presented a group recital titled *Towards Humanity*, a compilation of poems on humanism, edited and directed by Mahmudul Hassan. Guest reciters presented poetry from Australia, Brazil, Egypt, France, Japan and USA.

This was followed by Abdul Aziz presenting a 'Puthi Path'. Mahmudul Hassan recited Shamsur Rahman's poem *Swadhinata Tumi*. The English version of the poem was presented by Freeha Sultana.

Excerpts from Rabindranath Tagore's play *Raktokorobi* was also recited at the programme. Shafi Kamal, Noor-e-Hafza, Abu Zafar, Nasrat Jahan and Ziaul Hassan took part in the recital.

The programme ended with a choral presentation by the artists of Annit. They recited Bangla and English versions of *Shantir Jonyo Prarthana* by Noor-e-Hafza.

Remembering Abdul Alim

Programme on the maestro's birth anniversary

MAINUL HASSAN

To observe the 76th birth anniversary of folk maestro Abdul Alim, cultural organisation Uddipito Loltokola Academy (ULA), in association with National Association of UNESCO Clubs in Bangladesh, organised a programme featuring folk music at the Buet auditorium on July 27.

Abdul Alim possessed a powerful voice that immortalised Bangladeshi folk songs. His unique style highlighted the essence of our rural tunes and mesmerised the

audience. *Holudia pakhi*, *Naiyarey nayer badam tulia*, *Rupali nodirey* are some of the timeless songs popularised by him.

Born on July 27, 1931 in Murshidabad, West Bengal, Alim migrated to Dhaka after Partition and joined the radio as a staff artist. During his illustrious musical career he performed at a number of music conferences and received several awards.

The programme began with a short discussion. Dr. A.M.M. Shafiuallah, vice chancellor, BUET was the chief guest. Dr.



A portrait of Abdul Alim

Mohammad Mahmudul Hassan, secretary, Bangladesh UNESCO National Commission was the special guest at the event. Mintu Rahman, general secretary of Narzul Academy and folk singer Nadira Begum also spoke at the programme.

The discussion was followed by a musical programme featuring performances by Asgar Alim and Nurjahan Alim, son and daughter of Abdul Alim. The artistes began with a duet, *Ei jey dunia kishero lagia*, one of Alim's evergreen songs. It was followed by a group performance by students of ULA. Asgar Alim also rendered *Shorbonasha Padma nodi* and *Thakbona ei abeshey*. Nurjahan Alim sang *Holodia pakhi*, *Bohuidhun pirit bondhu* and a few other songs.



PHOTO: STAR

Theatre

"Paital": Tea garden labourers' miseries take centre stage

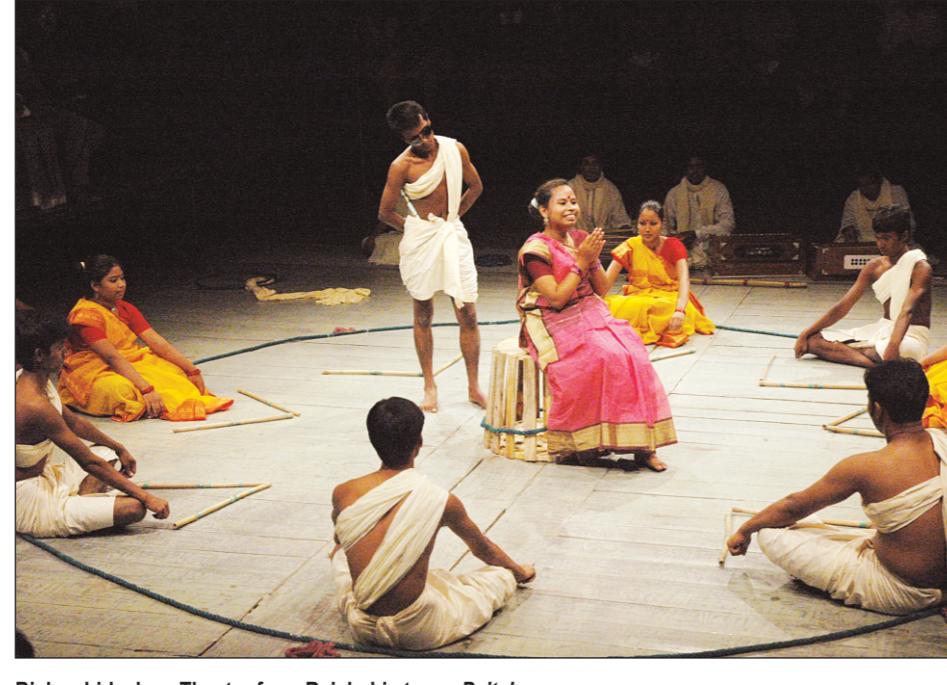
CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Scenic beauty of the tea gardens fascinates us. But lives of the individuals, who toil everyday to keep the tea business rolling, rarely make an impact. Tofazzal Liton's play *Paital*, which literally means the rhythm of toes, features the unheard stories of oppression, exploitation and discrimination tea plantation workers face.

Though the storyline of the play is simple featuring love stories of tea garden workers who belong to different ethnic minority groups- it throws up several issues of contemporary times. Besides, the oppression and exploitation by ruling Bengalis, *Paital* interestingly features the class discrimination amongst the ethnic minor groups such as Koiri and Munda.

Menoka, a Koiri girl, is in love with Gayen, who is a Munda, a less dominating ethnic group compared to Koiri. Which is why caste becomes an obstacle to love. On the other hand, Bindi is in love with Jodu, a tea worker who wants to do something for the betterment of the labourers, who are being oppressed by Bengalis. The tragedy ends with the hope that the offspring of Menoka-Gayen couple or Bindi-Jodu couple will overcome social barriers.

Based on Shah Azam Shantanu's ideas, the play is directed by Shudip Chakraborti. The directorial composition is experimental: The story maintains the form of *pala*, a Bengali indigenous performing art form. However, rituals and performing art forms of other ethnic groups have also been used. All the actions take place



Bishwabidyalaya Theatre from Rajshahi stages *Paital* at the centre stage, surrounded by the audience on all four sides -- a traditional setting in *pala*. The style of narration by the storyteller also maintains the *pala* format.

As part of Bangladesh Group Theatre Feder-

ation's promotional programmes to encourage theatre troupes from outside Dhaka, Bishwabidyalaya Theatre from Rajshahi staged *Paital*. The show was held on July 27 at the Experimental Theatre Stage.

As part of Bangladesh Group Theatre Feder-

Exhibition

A fine blend of flora and fauna

FAYZA HAQ

Rakeeb Hassan, whose solo exhibition of oil on canvas and paper is on at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, studied fine arts at Kenya. After holding several solo exhibitions at Kenya in the course of nine years, he went on to display his works at London and Edinburgh. In France he worked with a choreographic project at Montpellier and La Rochelle. His works have been displayed in Switzerland and Montreal. More exhibitions by the artist were held this year at Kenya and Mumbai. Rakeeb has been residing and working in Canada for the last seven years.

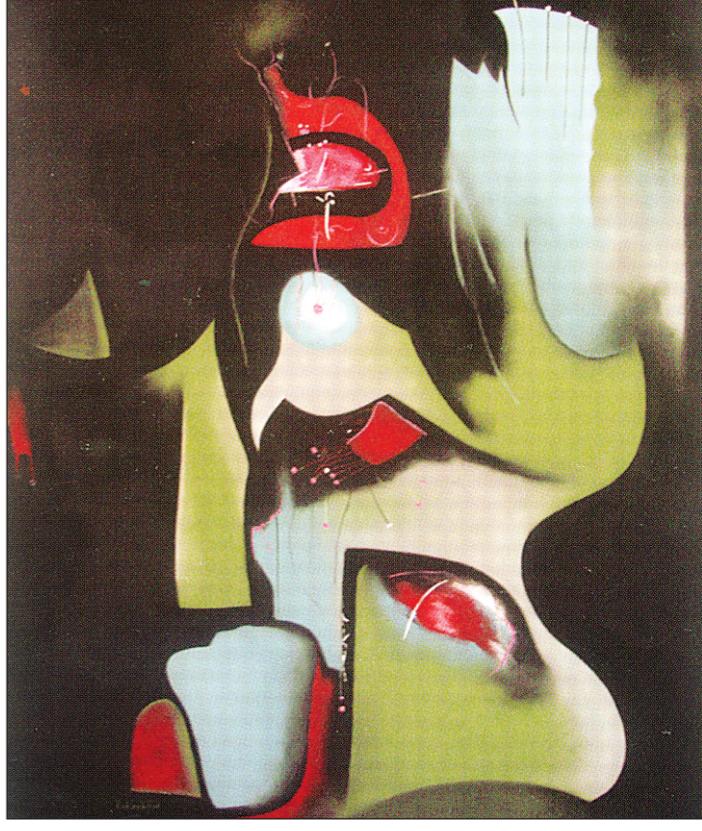
His series *Somatic Enigma* combines nature and figures. *Mystic Metaphor* also has forms mingling with nature. Entries from *Ritual of the Rock*, exhibited in France earlier, are also on display at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The artist finds drama in the daily germination of seeds, flowers, creepers and insects. Like many Bangladeshi artists, Jibanananda's poetry has influenced him greatly. Although his work is stylised, he is inspired by folk art. Rakeeb is also moved by African masks. His paintings remain semi-abstract, with a penchant for both flora and fauna. His initial works, their lines and colours, were mostly created around impressions of masks. Gradually he started bringing in images of his home in Bangladesh,

with land masses combined with rivers. In his recent paintings he features himself as well.

In Mumbai his exhibition at the Jehangir Art Gallery drew around thousand viewers every day. Being in touch with Indian artists like M.F. Hussain and Adibakar increased his experience and revved up the competitive spirit in him. His 16th solo exhibition is also his first in Bangladesh and in it he has mixed his recent works with the earlier ones.

In one of the paintings, *Mystic Metaphor XVI*, Rakeeb has combined the trunk of a tree with a human figure. Leaves and branches of trees also come into the composition. "When I take an image, I don't take the entire form but a fraction of it and mix it with other forms around me. I also get inspired by imaginary shapes," says the artist.

Mystic Metaphor III has cubist fragments of birds symbolising the loss of our dreams. Eagle's eyes are combined with human ones. Human forms and multi-storeyed buildings are depicted as floating away. The blue painting of the male and female forms in *Ritual of the Rock* deals with the myth of how a woman turns to stone on being touched by her admirer. The woman turning into rock is again portrayed in the next painting which is even more abstract. This is in reds, blues and greens. In the next painting a chopped tree trunk brings in human



Artwork by Rakeeb Hassan

forms in a surrealistic way.

In all Rakeeb's paintings one sees the impact of pensive ness of

masters like Picasso and Miro.

The exhibition ends today.

ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY



South Asian
On Channel-i at 6:20pm
Talk Show
Today's guest: Neena Gupta



The Chronicles of Narnia
On Star Movies at 7:00pm
Genre: Adventure/Fantasy
Cast: Skandar Keynes, Georgie Henley

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

News Bulletin

BTV

08:45 Bishwa Bichitra

11:15 Documentary

11:40 Lokolokaloy

01:00 Maa O Shishur

Kotha

01:30 Mati O Manush

02:15 Drama: Shongshar

Lila

03:05 Cartoon

03:30 Educational

Programme

04:00 Angora

04:30 Khela Dhula

05:05 Debate

06:10 Selected Programme

06:40 Musical Programme

07:05 Dance Programme

07:30 Shomoyer Shonglap

08:30 Protidin Bangladesh

08:35 Drama Serial: Shesh

Prishthay Dekhuri

09:00 Drama: Chhuti

10:30 Talk Show

01:45 Public Reaction

02:40 Drama Serial:

Priobash

03:30 Shomoyer Shonglap

04:50 Sa Re Ga Ma

05:30 MuktiJuddho Protidin

06:00 Shornali Shadakalo

06:20 South Asian

07:00 Bishwa Jurey

07:50 Ei Din

08:30 Musical Programme

09:35 LUX Channel-i Super

10:00 Drama Serial:

Star '07

10:00 Drama Serial:

Sultan

10:00 Drama Serial:

Hritika

10:30 Drama Serial:

Door

11:30 Drama Serial:

Ekanyobarti