

CULTURAL FEAST

Theatre

Title: Nirmajon
Troupe: Chaka Theatre
Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: October 27
Time: 7:00 pm

Concert

Organiser: The Goethe Institut Bangladesh and German Club
Band: Lychee Lassi (A Berlin-based band)
Venue: German Club, Road 104, Plot 24, Gulshan 2
Date: November 4
Time: Gates open at 8pm

Anniversary Programme

Organiser: Bangladesh Uddichil Shilpashishi
Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: October 29
Time: 4pm onwards

Documentary Launching

Venue: LGED Bhaban, Main Building, Hall Room, Agargaon
Date: October 28
Time: 9am-2pm

Art Exhibition

Title: Still-life
Artists: Six eminent artists of Bangladesh
Venue: Gallery Chitrak, Road 4, House 21, Dhamrai
Date: October 27-November 10
Time: 10am to 8pm

World Film Manifestation Programme

Title: Documentary for life
Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society
Venue: Goethe Institut Bangladesh, House 10, Road 9, Dhamrai
Date: October 29 & 30
Time: 3:00 pm onwards

Three Short Plays

Plays: Sanki, Jantob and Platform
Organisers: Space and Acting Research Centre
Venue: Goethe Institut Bangladesh
Date: October 26 & 28
Time: 7pm

Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Life and Nature
Artist: Raghunath Chakraborty
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A (New), Dhamrai
Date: October 21-27
Time: 3pm to 8pm

Film Screening

Title: Puja Special
Organiser: High Commission of India
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House 25, Road 96, Gulshan-2
Time: 6pm
Date: October 29
Film: Ek Mutto Chabi
Date: November 09
Film: Salam-E-Ishq
Date: November 12
Film: Kuch Kuch Hota Hai
Date: November 16
Film: Krish
Date: November 19
Film: Chalte Chalte
Date: November 23
Film: Kaal Ho Naa Ho

Book launch and poetry recital

A taste of Russian life and living

FAYZA HAQ

THE book *Poems of an October Evening* was launched on October 25 at the Russian Centre for Science and Culture, amidst festivity and fanfare. Recitation of poems written by leading Russian poets, translated into English and Bangla, preceded the launching. The book has been published by 'Meghdut', a forum for poetry recitation, and it contains 72 pages.

Russian Ambassador to Bangladesh Gennady P Trotsenko was the chief guest at the launching programme. Yury Makarov, DG of the Russian Cultural Centre, was also present. The programme was jointly organised by the Russian Embassy and 'Meghdut'.

The Russian Ambassador, in his message said, "Russian poetry is a unique phenomenon in world literature. It contains the reflection of European history, and heritage of Russian people in particular. It reflects the destinies, experiences and feelings of the Russian people."

Mosud Mannan, the chief coordinator of Meghdut, said that in the book, "Poems of an October Evening", there is an attempt to present a flavour of famous Russian poets, like Alexandre Pushkin, Evgeny Baratynsky, Boris Pasternak, and Yevgeny Yevtchenko. As many of the poets were writing during the Soviet era, there is a touch of that time also. "The book is meant to make people aware of the rich Russian lifestyle. The collection is the reflection of life and culture of the last 300 years," Mannan added.

Poets like Jahidul Huq from the daily *Shangbad* and Dr Nuzhat



Poems of
An October Evening
a selection of Russian poetry



Jacket of the book Poems of an October Evening

Amin, one of the editors of the book, spoke about the pleasures and pains of translation and editing, involved in the publication of the daily *Shangbad* and Dr Nuzhat

the book.

The book was brought out with the help of Professor Nuzhat Amin, Muteqilla, Shams Ud Doha with the support of the Russian Centre for Science and Culture. The reason for printing the book, and having the evening of Russian poetry, said Mannan, was that the Russians are a time-tested friend of the people of Bangladesh.

Meghdut, the publisher of the book, has had recitations in Bangla before. Since last July, it had a series of poetry recitals dedicated to different languages. Its endeavours began with Spanish poets. Within 23 years, the number of poetry lovers in the organisation has reached over a hundred. However, actively involved are 15 individuals. Last February it had "The Mother Language Poetry" evening. Recently there was Arabic poetry recitation with the backing of Omni Books; an evening of French love poetry, "L'amour" was held at Alliance Francaise.

Last year, with the support of Goethe-Institut there were three poetry recitals in Bangla and German, where poems, written originally in Bangla were also included. Last June there was a poetry session dedicated to Pablo Neruda, the Chilean poet, which was held at El Tora.

Recitation in Bangla alone was also held at the Rayer Bazar mass killing ground. This was on December 14, last year; the poetry reading had been dedicated to the martyred intellectuals. Last July, at the American Centre, a presentation of American poetry was held. There was also an evening dedicated to Tagore's poetry at the British Council.

Students of various institutes are

being involved in seminars and workshops where they will get an

opportunity to interact with veteran Indian director Shyam Benegal, Vishal Bhardwaj and Pankaj Kapur.

An exclusive dance performance

on the theme "Changing Landscape" will be staged during the

festivals, Akhtar added.

"We feel films made in the

Indian sub-continent are often

neglected and the Festival will

provide them with a platform,"

Akhtar said.

The aim of the festival is to create

an environment of peace and

harmony among SAARC countries

and provide a platform to facilitate

marketing of all types of films and

enhance trade opportunities.

A touch of Bollywood glamour is

expected to be added to the Festival

when actors Govinda and Manisha

Koirala make their appearances,

the Festival organisers said.

But the attempt to "dissolve

boundaries" by South Asia Foundation goes beyond screening of the films. During the festival, a seminar on "Indian Cinema and South Asia", workshops with students and aspiring filmmakers, poster competition and street theatre are also being organised, said Rameza Akhtar, the Festival Director.

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