

Sultan Mela in Narail
SM Sultan's 83rd birth anniversary observed

AZIBOR RAHMAN, back from Narail

EVERY year devotees from far and wide gather at the Sultan Mela (fair), Narail, to pay homage to SM Sultan. Hundreds of stalls are erected all around an open stage and cultural functions are performed at the Narail Victoria College premises.

One of the pioneer painters of Bangladesh, Sultan was born at Masimdia village, on the outskirts of Narail town in August 10, 1923. His father was Meser Ali (a mason) and his mother Maju Bibi. Sultan got admitted at Narail Victoria Collegiate School in 1928.

Kolkata. In 1943, he joined in "Khaksha" movement. In 1943, his solo art exhibition was held in Simla, India. In 1948 Sultan's solo art exhibition was inaugurated in Lahore, Pakistan, by Fatima Jinnah. In 1950, as a representative of Pakistan government, he participated at an international conference of artists in America.



A view of the Narail Victoria College premises, the venue of the fair

school and Nando Kanan Fine Arts College in 1973 in Jessore.

In commemoration of his memory, a Shishu Swargo, a Sultan museum and a Sultan Stage have been built here.

In 1982, he was conferred the "Man of Achievement" award by the Cambridge University. SM Sultan won the "Ekushey Padak" in 1982; Bangladesh Charu Shilpi Sangsad award in 1986 as well as

the "Independence Award" in 1993. He established the Fine Art Institute at Narail in 1969 and another institute "Charupeet" in Jessore in 1973. His last days were spent as a free-lance artist at Narail.

SM Sultan passed away in February, 10, 1994. On the occasion of his 83rd birth anniversary, this fair has been arranged at the premises of Sultan Mancho.



Artwork by SM Sultan

Celebrating 35 years of BRAC
Cultural programme at Army Stadium

MAINUL HASSAN

To mark its 35th anniversary, BRAC (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee), one of the leading NGOs in our country held a grand cultural programme at the Army Stadium on February 15. The event transformed the stadium into one single giant gathering of BRAC officials and employees across the country, with about 15,000 present on the occasion.

Founded in 1972, shortly after liberation, by Fazle Hasan Abed, BRAC today has grown to be one of the largest NGOs in the world, touching the lives of millions. Today an estimated 110 million people across Bangladesh have been reached by the organisation. Apart from Bangladesh BRAC also operates in neighbouring Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and in several countries of Africa.

The event began at 3:45 pm

with students from BRAC School singing the national anthem. BRAC founder and chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed then inaugurated the event.

A minute of silence was observed in memory of the brave employees of BRAC who died in the performance of their duties.

The cultural programme was set off with a dance performance choreographed by noted dancer Lubna Marium.

The next performer was Salma, winner of Closeup1, 2006 contest and also a former student of BRAC School. Salma rendered -- Ami chaalam jarey ami pallam na tarey Bondhu aao aao re bondhu and more.

Performance by popular singer Syed Abdul Hadi followed. Hadi opened his performance with a patriotic song -- Jey matir bukey ghumie achhey lokkho mukti shena -- in honour of the martyrs of our libera-

tion war. Other songs performed by Hadi included Chole jay jodi keu badhon chhirey, Jonmo theke Jolchhi mago and the all time hit Jeo na sathi.

Samina Chowdhury opened her performance with the song Shadhino taakey niye ganta likheychhi. Next she rendered the popular number Amar buker moddhokhane -- hriday shekhaney, Bhalolagey chand, a Kabir Bokul number and finally the hit number Shath bhai chompa jagorey.

Next was Kumar Bishwajit. Bishwajit performed some of his hit numbers including O daktar, Putuler moto korey sajaye, Tumi roj bikele and Ekdin Banglai chhilamrey.

A performance by comedian Pappu also formed part of the programme.

Folk artist Mamtaz amazed the audience with her wonderful performance. A dance performance by Sohel and Ria also received appreciation.

The main attraction of the programme was the solo performance by the noted singer Runa Laila, which was the final performance of the day. Runa Laila performed some of her hit numbers, starting with the song Shilpi ami tomader gaan shonabo. Other songs performed by Laila included -- Estation er rail garita, Shadher lau, O bondhu teandin tor barit gelam and more.

The event was wrapped up with Dr Mahbub Hossain, executive director, BRAC giving the formal vote of thanks followed by a laser light show.



On the occasion of Valentine's Day, Concord Entertainment Co. Ltd. (CenCL) organised the 'Shark Energy Drinks Valentine's Celebration' and a Fashion show on February 15 at the Water Kingdom, says a press release. The daylong event was attended by a huge crowd, where LRB was the main highlight. Along with LRB's evergreen numbers, popular bands and musicians such as Yaatri and Mila also performed much to the delight of the music lovers.



Bondhon Chirokaler, a live concert, was organised on Valentine's Day by the mobile operator company Aktel on February 14, says a press release. Held at Rabindra Sharobar, well known bands and musicians namely Souls, Black, S.I. Tutul, Mila and Mahadi (Close Up 1 contestant) performed at the concert. "It is the love of our customers that always inspires us to do a little extra for their delight," said Zafrul Hassan, AGM Marketing of Aktel on the event

ITI Theatre Festival '08
Three plays to be staged today

ERSHAD KAMOL

Three plays will be staged at the opening day of the theatre festival titled 'Whither theatre' arranged by Bangladesh Centre of the International Theatre Institute (BCITI). Moreover, dance troupe Nityadhara will perform at the National Theatre Stage after the opening ceremony, which will be inaugurated by Rasheda K. Chowdhury, adviser to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

Today, Nityadhara will stage Cyclewala at the Mahila Samity Stage, Bibortan from Jessore will stage Koibartogatha at the Experimental Theatre Stage and Department of Theatre and Music will stage Urubhangam at Natmondal, University of Dhaka.

Nityadhara's production Cyclewala, translated by Professor Abdus Selim from Vijay Tendulkar's The Cyclist, features the adventure of life through a cyclist's journey. But the play is more than a mere journey of a cyclist rather a meta-physical journey: A journey of the mind in search of the elusive truth. Cyclewala is directed by Irin Parveen Lopa.

Bibortan's production



A scene from the play Cyclewala

Koibartogatha, written by Abdullah Hel Mahmud, questions the documentation process of history, where the losers are often misrepresented. The aim of the play is not to rewrite the history of Pala Dynasty that ruled Bengal and Bihar for about four centuries (starting from the middle of 8th century). Through the reign of the dynasty is highly glorified by the historians, Mahmud's play depicts the history of oppression of the

rulers of the dynasty. Faiz Zahir is the director of the play.

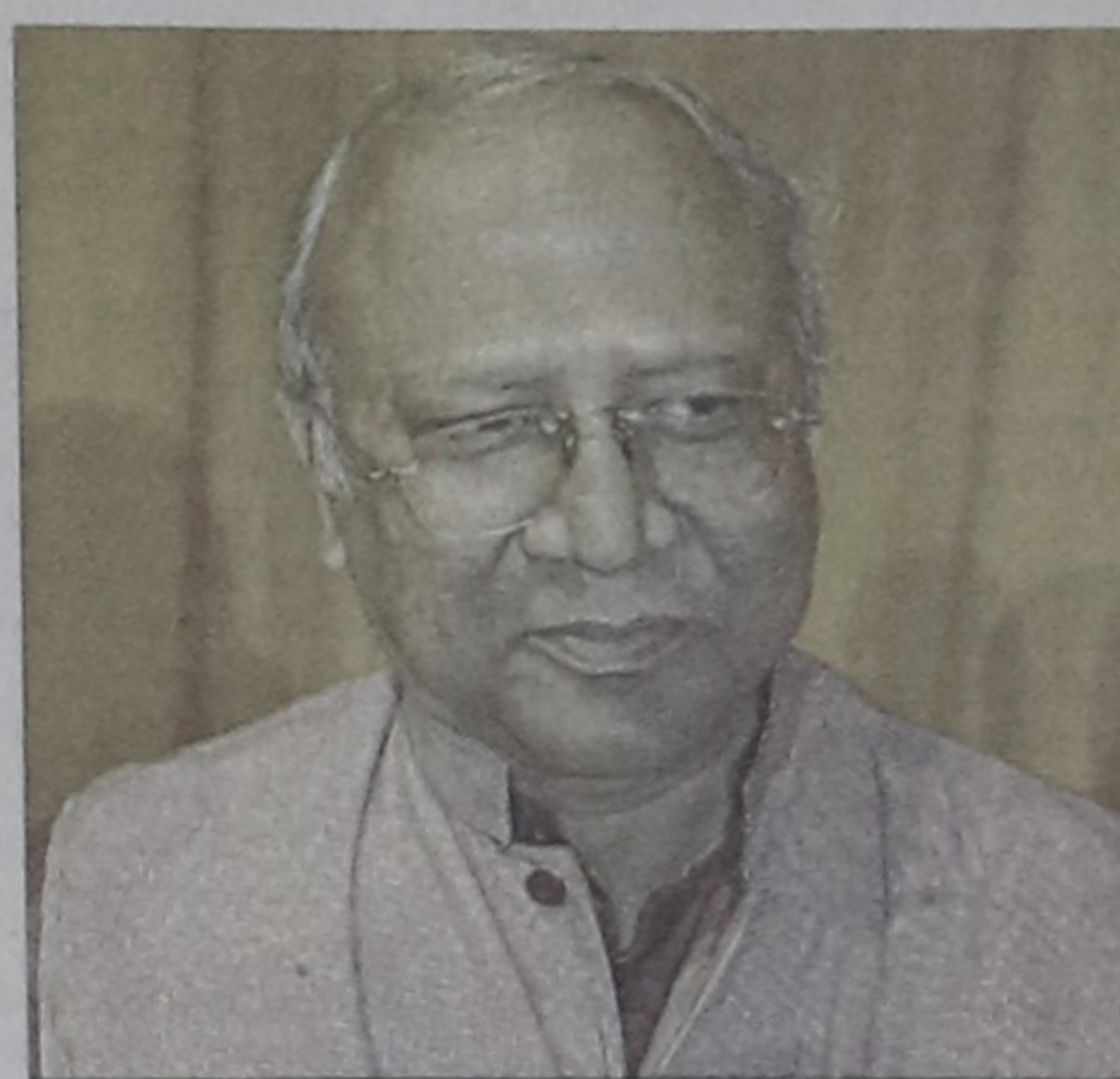
Department of Theatre and Music will stage Sanskrit playwright Bhasa's Urubhangam at Natmondal. The play is set against the backdrop of the concluding part of the Kurukshetra war mentioned in the Mahabharata.

In the epic Mahabharata, the Pandavas are treated as the heroes. However, Pandavas have been featured as evildoers in the plays.

"Bangladeshi theatre is well appreciated in international arena --Aaur Rahman

General Secretary of Bangladesh Centre of the International Theatre Institute (BCITI), Aaur Rahman discussing the activities of the organisation said, "The International Theatre Institute is a common platform for the activists of performing art forms like drama, dance and others." He said that because of the successful publication (World of Theatre) by BCITI, we have bagged many prestigious posts in the ITI World Committee, including vice president and chairperson of different important sub-committees. The 125th session of ITI Worldwide Executive Council will be held in Dhaka during the festival.

"Our activities have created a positive image of Bangladeshi culture overseas. The foreigners label our theatre as 'theatre of passion'. We are also working on a theatre encyclopaedia in 12 volumes, which will be a remarkable endeavour in the history of world theatre," he said.



Aaur Rahman

Musical soiree by Prachya Shilpocharcha Parishad

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The second arrangement of Ghorosa Gaaner Ashor, a regular musical soiree arranged by Prachya Shilpocharcha Parishad (Centre for Oriental Art Appreciation) was held on February 14 at the Alamgir Kabir Film Centre Auditorium. Prameela Chakraborty, Arjumand Ara Bakul and Tapan Mojumdar performed songs of three poets: DL Roy, Rajanikanto Sen and Atul Prasad; songs of Pagla Kanai and Radharaman and some old numbers at the event.

To create a bond between the singer and the audience in an interactive musical soiree, Prachya Shilpocharcha Parishad will continue to arrange similar programmes on every second Thursday of the month.

The evening started with Kirtan

artist Premeela Chakraborty's rendition, Esho Pranoksha, esho praney. She sang some romantic songs ranging from the different shades of love, keeping in her mind



Premeela Chakraborty at the function

the simultaneous effect of ongoing spring and Valentine's Day. She also rendered Hriday amar gopon korey and E jiboney Purilona sadh, Moley o aishiya and Bela boye jai from DL Roy.

Tapan Majumdar started with a Lalon Geeti, Manushy shei manushy achhey. That was followed by Pagla Kanai's Ki phul phutlorey Mokka, a song on Prophet Mohammad (sm). Several rare songs like Kamal Harinath's Bhabhi din ki bhoyonkor, Ramesh Sheel's Jodi bhoyon rothey jabi, Monomohon Dutt's Prem bajearey poroshmoni and others were also included in his presentation.

Arjumand Ara Bakul rendered songs of yesteryears at the event. Abhijit Ray accompanied the artists on Tabla and eminent Tagore artiste Neelotpol Sadyo was the moderator of the event.

ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY



Joto Modhur Bhulguli
On ntv on 6:45 pm
Entertainment Show
Guests: Ferdousi Majumdar, Subir Nandi



Heroes
On Star World at 10:30 pm
TV Series
Cast: Hayden Panettiere, Jack Coleman

Table with program listings for News Bulletin, Channel-i, ATN Bangla, Channel 1, and BTV.

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Table with program listings for STAR MOVIES, STAR PLUS, and BANGLAVISION.

Table with program listings for NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, STAR PLUS, and BANGLAVISION.

Table with program listings for Radio Foorti 88.0 FM, Radio Today 89.6 FM, and ZEE STUDIO.