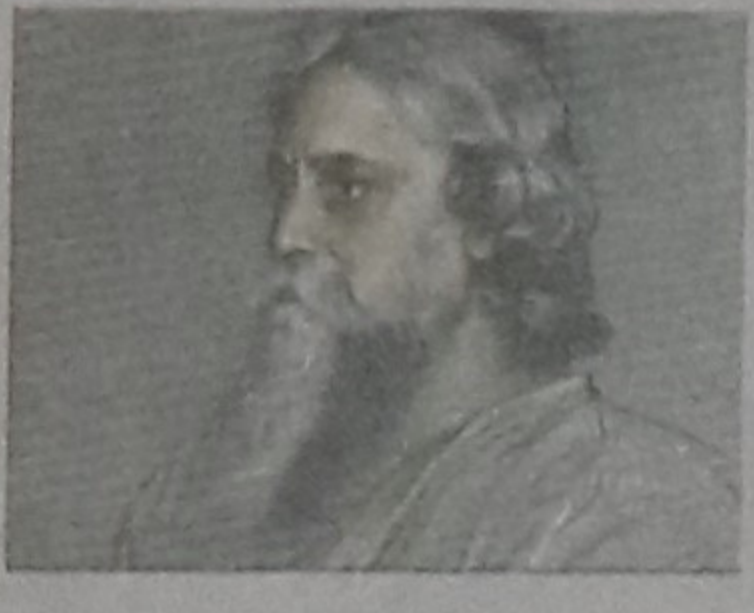


National Rabindra Sangeet Festival

Organiser: Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbag
Date: March 5-8
Time: 5pm-9pm everyday



Group Ceramics Exhibition

Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka
Date: March 3-9
Time: 12:00-07:00pm



Solo Exhibition

Title: Rhythm in Nature
Artist: Professor Hamiduzzaman Khan
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H 20, R 16, S 4, Uttara
Date: March 7-21
Time: 11am-8pm



Solo Exhibition

Title: Perception
Artist: Abdul Munzir
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, House 275/F, Road 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: March 6-17
Time: 12pm-8pm



In aid of Sidr-affected children

Art camp in Kuakata

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A group of twelve artists from Dhaka came together in aid of the children traumatised by the Cyclone Sidr in Kuakata. Working for Better Life (WBL), a local organisation coordinated the art camp with the help of the artists - Tarun Kumar Ghosh, Ranjit Das, Md. Eunus, Kazia Salauddin Ahmed, Tayeba Begum Lipi, Nazia Andaleeb Preema, Mahbubur Rahman, Sheikh Ahsan Ullah Mojumder, Dominiq Gomes, Ronnei Ahmed, Kazi Sayeed Ahmen and Nahid Niazi Nipu.

The four-day camp was designed to produce 50-60 artworks, which will be sold to raise money for the children. A special exhibition and auction will be organised to sell all the artworks produced at the camp. All the proceeds from the sales will be used to support the children under the 'Mamar Bari' project.

The 'Mamar Bari' project was initiated by WBL within few days after the cyclone. ActionAid and UNICEF have also extended substantial support to it. Preema's Atelier helped WBL in organising this unique art camp. Around 300 children who have lost their homes and whose schools are still closed after two months of the cyclone, come to this 'Mamar Bari' and spend the whole afternoon reading, playing and participating in cultural activities. Each child gets a hot meal in the evening.

The artists felt at home in Kuakata. They visited the area, observing the damages left behind by Sidr. This had a strong impact on their paintings.

The artists spent time with the children everyday through different activities which ranged from listening to music to art workshops.



A group-painting by the artists



Children take part in an art workshop

Each artist produced 6-8 artworks. After witnessing the devastation caused by Sidr first

hand, the artists have decided to donate all proceeds from sales of the artworks.

During the special workshops, children displayed their enthusiasm through drawings and paintings. What was interesting to see was the large number of paintings that were influenced by Sidr and the post-cyclone activities like distribution of relief and boats being capsized.

Artworks produced by the artists highlighted the scenic beauty of Kuakata. The special exhibition and auction will be organised in Dhaka around June.

According to Preema, the artist who helped organise the art camp and also took part in it, the project is important because, "Sidr was one of the deadliest natural disasters in the country causing damage on an unparalleled scale. A large number of children have been directly affected by Sidr. They really need our encouragement

and support."

Preema continued, "As an artist I capture life, I capture things that are between the lines, which may appear invisible to the normal eye. To develop that, I try to observe and get involved at the grassroots level. This approach helped me to move beneath the surface and connect with the Sidr-affected children."

The artist said, "Art has the unique ability to touch one's soul. It helps to reconnect a person with his/her identity. When someone produces an artwork it provides a tremendous level of satisfaction and adds a renewed level of energy. This helps to recover from any sense of loss or sorrow."

"An artist has the innate ability to see beyond the obvious, and can reach out and heal along the way," concluded Preema.

Shah Abdul Karim Folk Festival at Ujan Dhal

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet.

Artistes, cultural activists and music enthusiasts thronged at the Ujan Dhal village by the Kalni River to attend the two-day 'Shah Abdul Karim Loko Utsab' (folk festival) that ended Monday night. The festival was organised to mark the legendary rural bard's 93rd birthday.

The 'Baul Samrat' however could not attend the programme due to his frail health. Sponsor of the festival, banglalink, honoured Karim with an 'Ajibon Sammanona' (lifetime achievement) award. The award was given to Karim at his home on the concluding day. Solaiman Alam, communication chief, banglalink and Manager Sharf Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury were present on the occasion.

The river Kalni, which flows by the village Ujan Dhal influenced the bard since his childhood. The annual fair held in the Bengali month of Falgun, 'Dhal Mela' became a platform for Karim's creations.

Dibyendu Das Baul, son of the Indian artiste Paban Das Baul attended the festival this year. He performed some popular Shah Abdul Karim songs including 'Agey ki shundor din kaaitam'.

Among others, Shah Karim's son Shah Nur Jalal, Baul Abdur Rahman, Abdur Tohayed, Bashir Uddin and Dukhu Miah also performed on the concluding day of



Shah Abdul Karim receives his Lifetime Achievement Award from Solaiman Alam

the festival.

Divisional Commissioner of Sylhet, Aziz Hasan formally inaugurated the festival last Sunday afternoon. Deputy Commissioner of Sunamganj, Saber Hossain, veteran singer Ferdous Wahid, his son popular musician Habib Wahid, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Derai, MA Rahim, banglalink Senior Executive Mahbubur Rahman and others attended the programme.

Born to a poor family, Shah Abdul Karim devoted his life to

music at an early age. His parents Ibrahim Ali and Naiorjan Bibi encouraged his interest in music.

Shah Abdul Karim performed at a programme at the Upazila headquarters of Derai two years back. It was his last performance. The legend cannot sing any more due to his ailments but the Kalni River still draws him. Whenever he had time, Karim used to take a walk by the river. Now that the bard is bedridden he cannot indulge in one of the activities he cherished.



Folk musicians perform at the festival

Patho Natok Festival '08

Highlighting the current socio-political state in street theatre

JAMIL MAHMUD

On the third day (March 3) of ongoing Patho Natok Festival '08, arranged by Bangladesh Patho Natok Parishad (BPNP), five theatre troupes staged their productions at the Central Shaheed Minar premises. The symbolic and satirical plays featured the historical movements and the current situation of our country.

Before staging the plays, Mafizur Rahman Laitu, research secretary of BPNP read out an essay.

Dyash Bangla Theatre staged their production *Angurikathan*. Directed and written by Kamal Bari and Rashidul Islam respectively, the play featured the prevalent negative aspects of our society like repression of women by the fundamentalists. In the play, the central character Anguri and her husband face a 'fatwa' imposed by the fundamentalists.

Centre for Bangladesh Theatre staged *Tarjani* '71. Directed by Mohammad Abdul Hamid, the play featured the Liberation War and the political scenario in the post-Liberation War Bangladesh. In the play 'tarjani' (index finger) refers to an inspirational insignia.

Moitri Theatre staged the play *Kalnagini*. Directed and written by Meraj Ahmed, the play featured the issue of substance abuse among the young in our society. In the play, 'kalnagini' refers to drugs.



Actors of Moitri Theatre staged the play *Kalnagini*

Natyafauj staged their improvisational production *E Kon Jati?*. Suvashish Dutta Tomoy directed the improvisational play. The play featured movements throughout the history of our nation including the Language Movement and the Liberation War. The play also fea-

tured a symbolic trial of the war criminals. Antarang Theatre performed *Fera*, featuring the natural disasters caused by human actions. Mohammad Aminul Islam directed the play. Today seven troupes including

Natyakunja, Bogra Theatre, Jahangirnagar Theatre, Bangaranga Natyadal, Theatre Mahala, Theatre Centre and Swaralipi Theatre will stage *Amader Satyakatha*, *Shantirakkhak*, *Sholtey*, *Kobor*, *Chora*, *Samayer Mangal* and *Kripoti* respectively.

Chhayanat to launch "Bangladesher Hridoy Hotey"

One of the leading cultural organisations of the country, Chhayanat, has taken an initiative to publish a culture and literature based magazine titled *Bangladesher Hridoy Hotey*, says a press release. The first edition of the magazine will be launched today (March 5) at the Ramesh Chandra Memorial Auditorium, Chhayanat Sanskriti Bhaban. Eminent educationist Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, artist Rafiqun Nabi, theatre personality Ataur Rahman and music exponent Abdus Shakur will be present at the launching programme.

Think you're a Culture Vulture? Have a knack for writing? The Arts & Entertainment section is looking for young, talented enthusiastic writers. Interested individuals can email us (with a copy of your CV) at culture_dailystar@yahoo.com or write to us at Arts & Entertainment, The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215

"Shimanto Atondro Prohori"

Khalid Mahmud Mithu's new venture

After the making of a music video featuring navy officers, director Khalid Mahmud Mithu has directed yet another music video. This time the spotlight is on the Bangladesh Rifles, says a press release. Hyder Husyn has written, composed and rendered the song. Hundreds of BDR personnel came forward to take part in this project, which has been shot at various locations of the country. The song portrays the patriotism, sacrifice and dedication with which the BDR work force stands guard at the border.

The video was released on March 3 on the occasion of BDR week.



Making the video



Children perform a group rendition at the Shaheed Khokon Park premises as part of the Bogra Book Festival on March 2. The District Administration, Bogra arranged the festival.