

Adivasi Cultural Festival

Organiser: Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD)
Venue: Plaza, National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 13-15
Time: 10:00-07:30 pm
Inauguration March 13, 3:30 pm



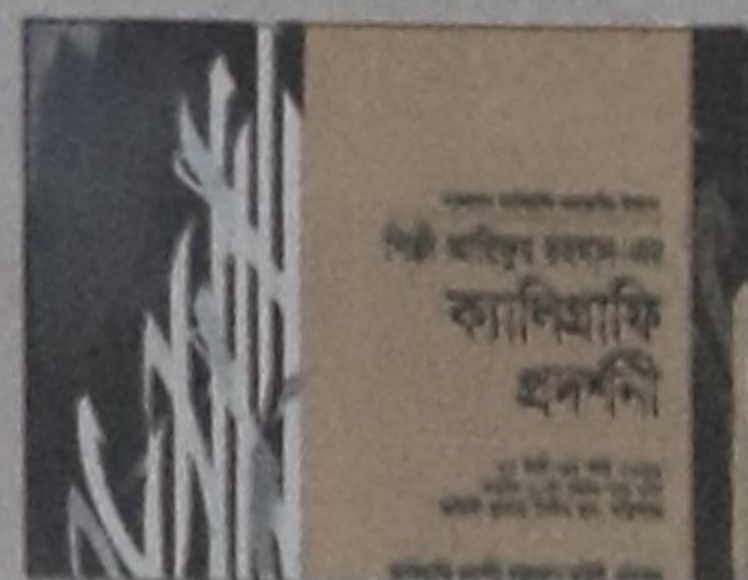
Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Flowers and My Remembrance
Artist: Nusrat Jahan Nazlee
Venue: Art and Soul Gallery, Road 36, House 16, Gulshan Avenue
Date: March 14-29
Time: 11:00 am-08:00 pm



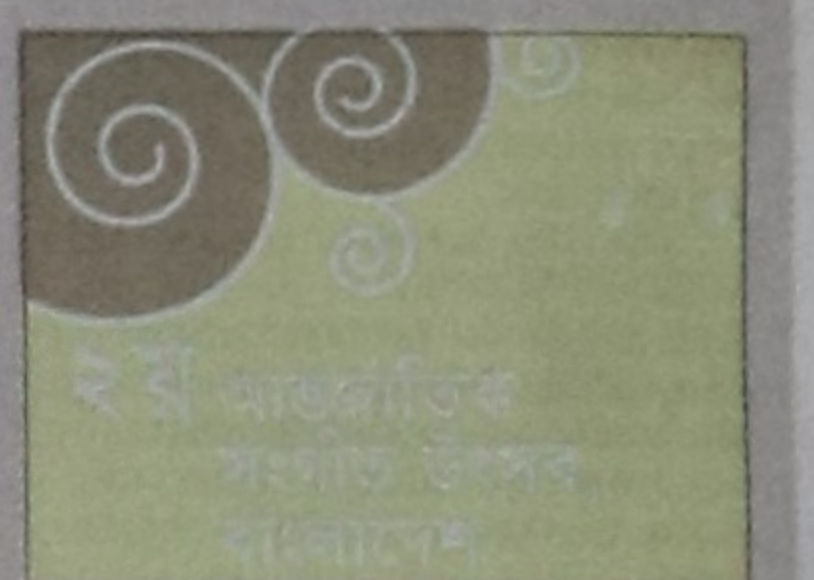
Calligraphy Exhibition

Artist: Anur Rahman
Venue: Ashwini Kumar Town Hall, Barisal
Date: March 11-15
Time: 10:00 am-08:00 pm

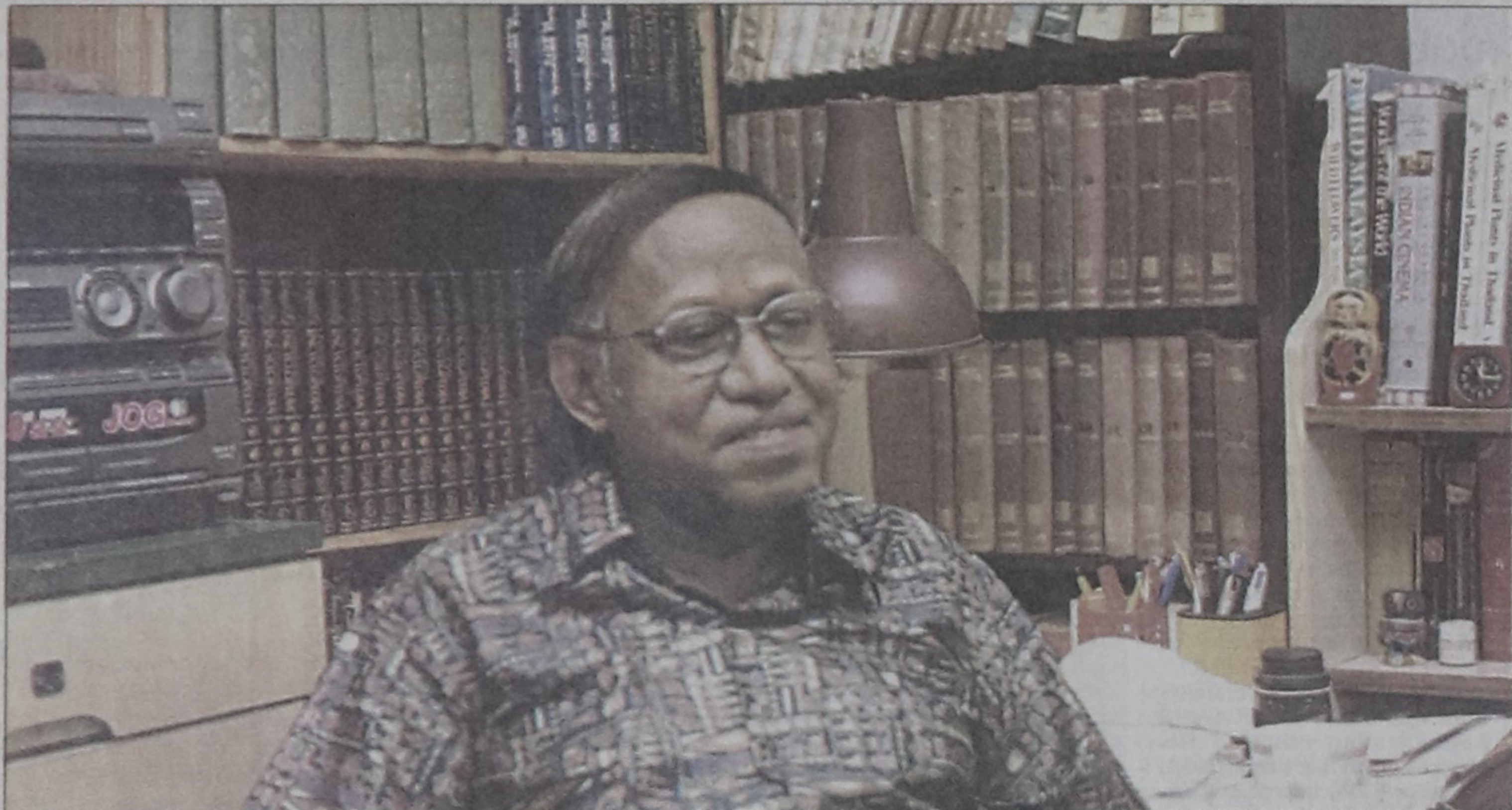


2nd International Music Festival

Organiser: The Centre for Education, Creative and Performing Arts
Venue: Main Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum
March 14
05:00 pm



Profile of an iconic photo artist



Dr. Noazesh Ahmed

ERSHAD KAMOL

Though his academic education is in plant genetics, for the last five decades Dr. Noazesh Ahmed has been developing the art that both represents and interprets reality, necessitating a rethinking and readjusting of focus on the viewers' part. Dr. Noazesh Ahmed explores nature in colourful forms and poignant expressions -- more like a painter than a photographer. As is usual with Dr. Ahmed's photography, the images evoke a number of emotions. His photographs reveal aspects of reality that elude even a discerning onlooker, because he is not interested in mere facts, but in the workings of an inner aesthetics that expresses itself in rare moments and in rare combinations. These moments, and these combinations -- of natural objects, of man and his surrounding -- are his subjects: Not

things as such, but the life of things; not the mere technicalities of the craft but an inner vision that transforms these technicalities into aspects of art. The photo artist demonstrated his talent when he was only a student of class nine. For his photograph titled "Struggle", a black and white study of boatmen rowing upstream, was selected for the Commonwealth Institute Exhibition in London in 1950. Dr. Ahmed said, "The boatmen are silhouetted against free floating clouds which provide a perfect counterpoint to their struggle in the photograph. And the participation at the Commonwealth Exhibition was an encouragement for me." In fact photography helped Dr. Noazesh Ahmed in his academic career. While a student of the then East Pakistan Agricultural Institute (Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University), Ahmed held a photo exhibition at the Farmers' Fair. His photographs impressed the then American Education and Cultural Affairs Officer Mr. Cleveland. Dr. Ahmed said, "Cleveland was so impressed that he offered me a Fulbright Scholarship at the University of Wisconsin."

Dr. Ahmed developed his photographic skills, while studying Plant Genetics in the US. His participation at the Portrait of America Exhibition 1957-58, organised jointly by the US State Department and Lifetime Magazine brought him early into the limelight. He was one of the two foreigner participants with the leading American photographers. In 1959, while he was studying for his PhD at the University of Wisconsin, Noazesh Ahmed participated in the Camera Concept Exhibition at the university. Dr. Ahmed said, "After participating at those exhibitions in the US, I had the chance to work with

renowned American photographers such as Gordon Parks, Ernest Hass and David Hamilton. I drew my inspiration from the Chief Photographer of Lifetime Magazine Gordon Parks. As he was a poet-photographer, he used adjectives written by himself on the photographs. Moreover, he used to illustrate poems. Which is why I use lines from Holy Books and well known poems on my photographs. I've worked on Tagore's *Chhinno Patra* and Jibananda Das' poems." Dr. Ahmed had also used photographs for creating awareness on the Liberation War amongst the foreigners. In his words, "I used to display slide shows on the Liberation War. In '72, I participated at a solo exhibition featuring the portraits of Bangladesh. The exhibition was organised by the Bangladesh Centre in Washington DC and New York City. It was a rewarding experience for me, as it allowed me

to introduce my country to the world." Dr. Ahmed is a trendsetter in several ways. He introduced photo features for newspapers in Bangladesh. He said, "Sunday Magazine of the then Pakistan Observer mostly used my pictures for its cover. I successfully introduced a photo-feature section with aesthetically rich colour photographs in the magazine." Moreover, Dr. Ahmed has presented many photo-albums including *Bangladesh* (1975), *Portrait of Bangladesh* (1982), *Quest for Reality* (1997), *Wild Flowers of Bangladesh* (1998), *Chinnapatra* (2002) and *Dhanshiri Naditir Pashey* (2004). However, the book that gave him the greatest satisfaction was the photo album *Bangladesh*, at a time when printing colour photographs was a difficult process. The book was a trilingual venture (English, French German) with striking images of Bangladeshi life and landscape, and was published solely through the private initiative of an intrepid publisher. Dr. Ahmed said, "British Geographical Society announced *Bangladesh* as the best book of the year. 6,000 copies of the book were sold in a year. My next project *Portrait of Bangladesh* also received a great response. And *Quest for Reality* is a retrospective album of photographs, which features my progress and maturity as an artist in the last five decades." On the USP of his photography Dr. Ahmed said, "To me photography is a unique art form. My photographs are well composed, balanced and colourfully presented. I use analog cameras, as I feel, they produce images that appear more natural than the ones produced by digital cameras. Moreover, I use 'multiple exposure' and 'sandwiching technique', which are rare in Bangladesh." Like many, the seasoned photograph artist believes in the necessity of introducing photography as an academic subject. Dr. Noazesh Ahmed won the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Award in 1978.

Mystery, murder and thrill in "And Then There Were None"

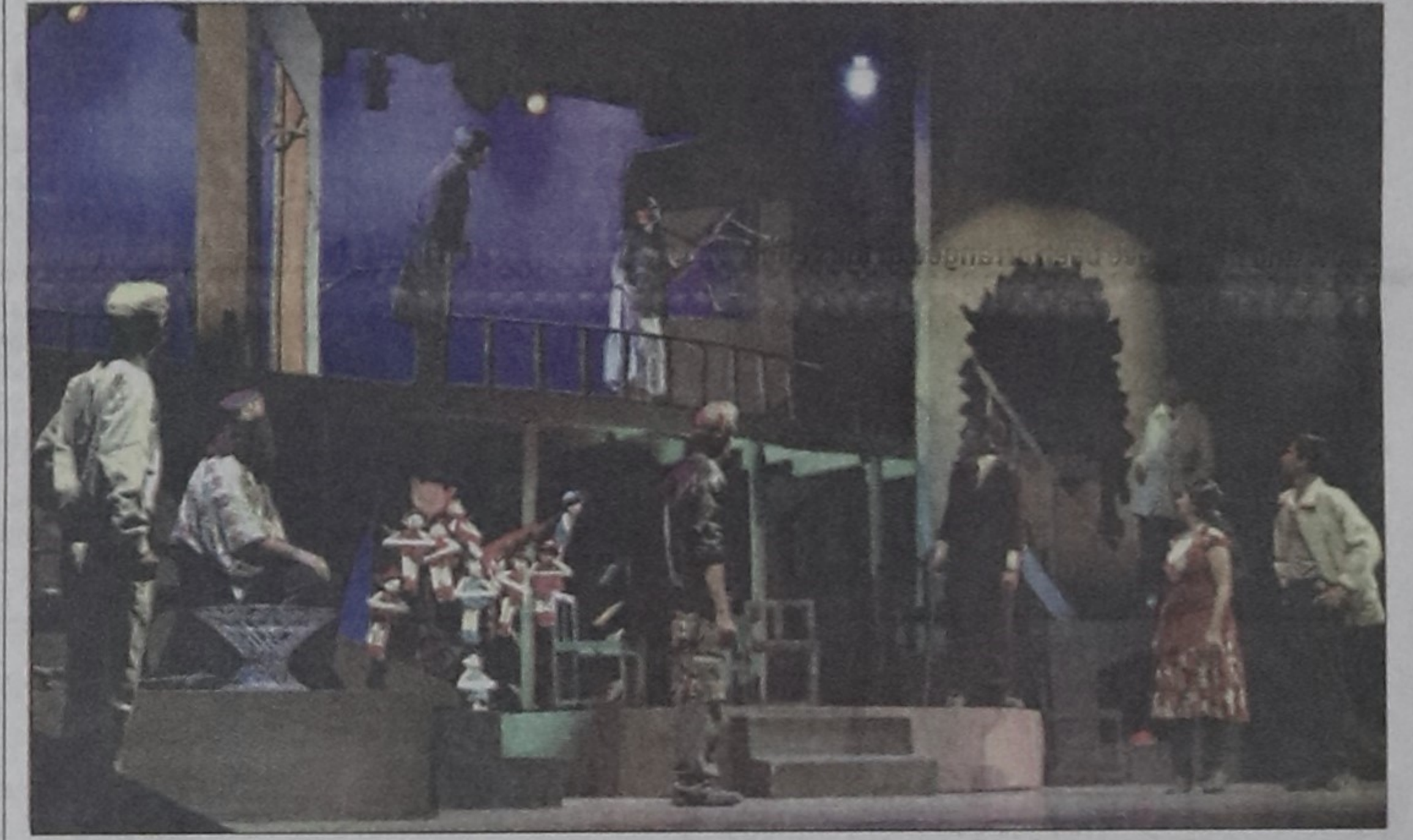
North South University stages its annual drama

NADIA SARWAT

North South University's Cine and Drama Club (CDC) presented their eighth annual drama *And Then There Were None*, a blood-curdling murder mystery by Agatha Christie, at the National Theatre Stage of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on March 9 and 10. Inspired by the success of their previous production *Mouse Trap* (staged in 2003), also an Agatha Christie thriller, CDC staged this play that has been a tremendous success in the '50s -- both as a novel and as a play. As the curtain rises, the audience comes to see a cosy living room with a couple arranging the place for some expected guests. The guests arrive consequently, each with some dramatic caricature capable to draw the attention of the audience. The ten characters being introduced to each other, reveal the fact that they all were

invited by some Mr. Or Mrs. U.N. Owen (the name bearing a clear resemblance to the word 'unknown'). Suddenly one notices 10 figurines hanging on the wall with a popular nursery rhyme *Ten little Indians* written below that starts with the line "Ten little Indian Boys going out to dine" and ends with "And then there were none". The chirpy mood is abruptly interrupted by a mysterious voice accusing each of the guests as a murderer, mentioning the name of the victims and claiming that none will go unpunished. Shocked and annoyed by the announcement, the guests want to leave the place at once but discover there is no escape as the guesthouse is situated in an island and there is no boat in sight. The play successfully retains the attention of the audience as the guests are killed one after another in the manners described in the nursery rhyme. After each murder, one of the figurines mysteriously

drops from the wall. In the end only two of the guests survive. ABM Ziaul Haque Bhuiyan, visiting teacher at Dhaka University, has directed the play. The cast of the play included Shahriar, Azaz, Ishita, Shuchi, Ovee, Razzaq, Jubair, Shihab, Shreoshi, Shujon and Adnan. The young actors seemed quite comfortable in their roles. Jubair as the funny Mr. Blore; Shreyoshi as the crotchety spinster; Shuchi and Ovee in the roles of Vera and Lombard, who finally escape the murder scene were repeatedly applauded by the viewers. Through clever set, light and props design by Ismail Hossain Jewel, M Kaiser Rahmani, Chowdhury Sajjad Ali Shuvo and M Faridul Islam Fardin, the stage resembled a duplex with plenty of rooms. The music by Kamol Hassan Khalid complemented the theme of the play. Translated by the students, the play is the 23rd production of CDC, which is now running in its 12th year.



Actors of Cine and Drama Club, NSU in the play *And Then There Were None* PHOTO: STAR

Tête-à-tête Sharmin Lucky: The friendly familiar face on and off TV



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The host of the cooking show *Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe*, Sharmin Lucky, recently talked to *The Daily Star* -- amid her hectic shooting schedule -- on her upcoming TV show *Chandrabindu*. Sharmin's warmth, spontaneity and vivacious personality have earned her much popularity as a TV (TV commercial) model and anchor. On *Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe*, Sharmin informed that the show will complete 200 episodes this year. Already 184 episodes have been telecast, and shooting for the remaining 16 episodes is underway. The audience will be able to view the latest and probably the last few episodes in April on ntv. She stated that it is a big achievement for the entire unit. "The

amount of success and popularity the show has gained over a short span of time is truly remarkable," she said. Sharmin also hosts the career-based show *Apnar Agami* on Banglavison. Produced by Ushnish Chakrabarty, the show has attained the attention of many, and will be completing 100 episodes soon. The show discusses job prospects in different fields -- both conventional and offbeat professions. At present, Sharmin is busy shooting for a new show *Chandrabindu* that will be aired on Channel-1. The show is directed by Nurul Alam Atique. The 26-episode show that will discuss a new topic in every episode have been shot at various locations in Bangladesh and will include public opinions.

Sharmin believes the show has something new and different to offer. She informed, "The show will highlight topics as diverse as love, disease and even ghosts! I had to get a different look for each episode based on the theme." When asked to evaluate her success as a TV personality, Sharmin laughed and said, "I guess it is human nature to keep wanting for more. Our desires are insatiable and however much we obtain in life it is never enough." The only regret she has is not having studied well enough. Although she has a Masters degree from Dhaka University, she wishes she had given her studies a bit more time and dedication. Sharmin is an active social worker and will be visiting the Sidra-affected areas this month to work for the distressed in the area.

Musical soiree in remembrance of Wahidul Haque

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Kanthashilan is organising a two-day musical programme on the occasion of the late Tagore exponent Wahidul Haque's birth anniversary. The programme will be held at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library on March 21 and 22. Students of *Kanthashilan* and noted cultural personalities will take part in the programme. Students of the institution are requested to contact the office of *Kanthashilan* to complete the formalities of registration.

Recognition for the book "O United Nations"

Bangladesh Political Science Association honoured Sinha M.A. Sayeed with the "Leadership Award 2007-2008" for his book *O United Nations* at a recent seminar, says a press release. The seminar titled "National Security and Leadership Challenges: Bangladesh Perspective" was held at the auditorium of Bangladesh Institute for International Strategic Studies (BISS). Professor Zillur Rahman Khan, Rosebush Professor Emeritus, Wisconsin University, USA and Chair, Research Council of International Political Science Association and Ambassador M. R. Osmany, Chairman of Board of Governors of BISS, jointly gave away the crest to Sinha. More than three hundred scholars from home and abroad with various disciplinary backgrounds attended the seminar. Previously, Sinha received the Bangladesh Writers Foundation's Best Book Award 2007-2008 for his book on January 21, 2008. National Professor Kabir Chowdhury gave away the award to him at a ceremony held at the Liberation War Museum.

Romance through the realm of flowers

Iffat Ara Dewan's solo exhibition



The Artist
FAYZA HAQ

Iffat Ara Dewan is here again with her offering of flowers, vases, gardens and portraits. At Shilpangan one sees Iffat playing with lines, dots and colours to depict emotions and experiences. Iffat's use of violet and red is to usher in the rejuvenation of romance. Her paintings are simple and innocent and at the same time they bring in the feelings of tranquility and joy. Red introduces passion and a sense of turmoil. Her yellows and greens search for eternity. In her portrayal of woods and gardens, Iffat presents the elements of hope and romance. In "The blue moon" the viewer gets the impression of a silent night which is spilling over a veranda, containing an empty chair and table. One feels that any minute a pair of lovers will walk into the scene with the tempting moon overhead. It is black and blue with a touch of pink. "The blue table" similarly creates a mood for an idyll with the blue tree and vase. The lines behind the table are pulsating

with colour that speak of one's overcoming of pain and sorrow, unlike the other dark lines in some of the other paintings with vases. "My garden" brings in the part of the house in which she lived earlier. The flowers are a bright orange and jubilant pink. "Summer in orange" brings in white gypsy flowers contained in a backdrop of brighter colours. This picture too speaks of harmony and rhythm in life. "Flames in my heart" depict "agnishikha" with the predominance of orange. The flowers represent a high charge of emotions. "The smouldering crack" introduces a turquoise jug with white blossoms. The crack symbolises a change in life where smooth existence is broken into two parts introducing a feeling of disharmony. There are portraits too in simple lines, curls and dots that bring in the image of women. The necks, shoulders, and eyes are clearly depicted by the geometrical lines and shapes. "Waiting" brings in the theme of sitting and longing for the arrival of one's beloved. Here too is a depiction of a garden in bloom. In Iffat's works, which are of chalk pastel, one observes the joy of survival. Iffat went in for academic training in painting while in UK but the weather and the fact that the rigours of art school left her with little time for her singing practice, made her give it up. The French Impressionists like Renoir and Matisse are her favourite painters.



Artworks by Iffat Ara Dewan