

Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Unmasked
Artist: Tenzin Dorji (Bhutan)
Venue: Samatata Art Gallery,
House 4, Road 95, Gulshan 2
Date: March 14-28



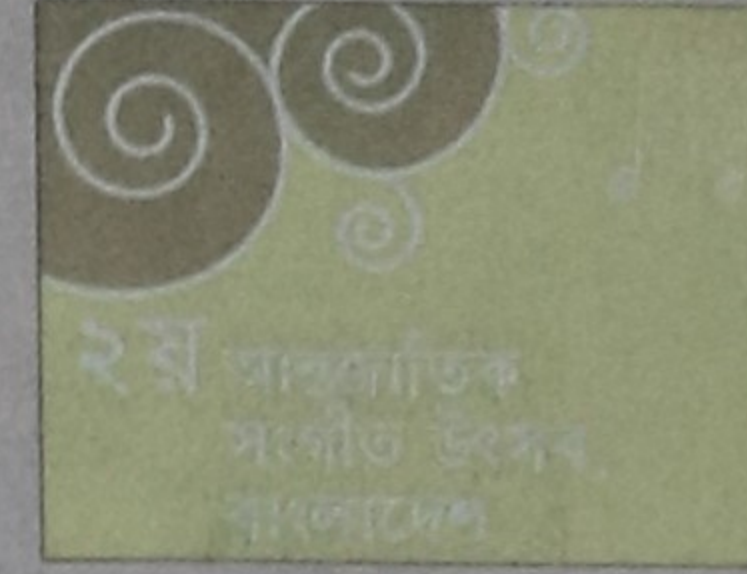
Festival de Théâtre Français

March 13-20
Organiser: Alliance Française de Dhaka,
Naluke, Fame School and Bangladesh
Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 15, Time: 7pm
Play: Be Bimbobona
Troupe: Fame School of Dance, Drama
and Music



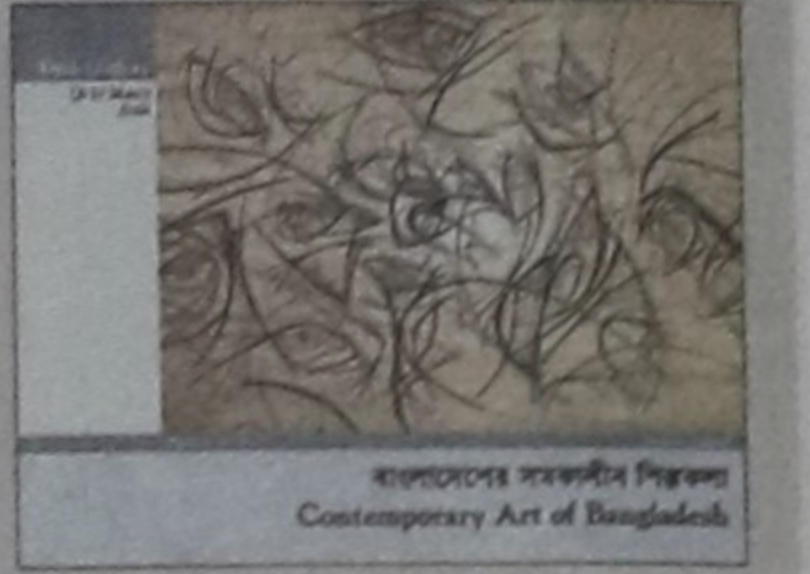
2nd International Music Festival

Organiser: The Centre for
Education, Creative and Performing
Arts, Bangladesh National
Commission for UNESCO, Islamic
Educational, Scientific and Cultural
Organisation
Workshop
Date: March 15, Time: 06:00 pm
Venue: Iranian Cultural Centre, House
54, Rd 8/A, Dhanmondi



Exhibition

On artworks from 1948 to 2008
Title: Contemporary Art of
Bangladesh
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58,
Road 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: March 13-19
Time: 3pm-8pm



Adivasi Cultural Festival '08 begins

A colourful display of diverse traditions



Indigenous artistes perform at the Adivasi Cultural festival '08

JAMIL MAHMUD

With much hope and enthusiasm, the three-day long Adivasi Cultural Festival '08 began at the Plaza of National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on March 13. Artists of the indigenous communities of the country made an impressive demonstra-

tion of their diverse cultures on the opening day. Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD) in collaboration with Christian Aid arranged the festival. Throughout three days, sixteen indigenous cultural troupes will showcase their traditional art forms.

Noted cultural organiser

Manjulika Chakma from the Chittagong Hill Tracts inaugurated the festival. Philip Gain, director of SEHD gave the welcome speech at the programme.

"It is a wonderful initiative to represent the cultural diversity of the country," said eminent litterateur Selina Hossain who was the main discussant at the

programme.

The Chief of Chakma Circle, Raja Debashish Roy, who is also the special assistant to the Chief Adviser on Chittagong Hill Tracts, was the chief guest. In his speech Raja Debashish Roy said, "We would be able to provide a better understanding of the history if the contribution of the indigenous communities during the different movements were recognised."

Professor Sakawat Ali Khan, chairman of SEHD, presided over the programme. Tanya Haq, country representative of Christian Aid Bangladesh and Quamrul Hasan ndc, director general of BSA were special guests.

The inauguration was followed by a cultural programme. Attired in ethnic costumes, artists representing the Oraon, Chakma, Khasi, Chak and Rakhaing communities performed traditional dances and songs.



PHOTO: STAR

The programme started with a patriotic song *Ete sundar desh hamar* performed by Oraon artists. They also performed their traditional 'Wedding' and 'Karam' dance.

Chakma artists performed the 'Biju' and 'Jhum' dance. One of the Chakma artists also rendered a solo song.

Members of Rakhaing community rendered a patriotic song and also performed a dance.

Khasi artists performed a group song, a dance of War and more.

Performers of the Chak community presented a patriotic song, an *adhunik* song and a group dance.

Cultural troupes representing the Mahali, Bwam, Tripura, Manipuri and Hajang community will showcase their songs and dances today.

Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan begins



PHOTO: STAR

Artistes perform a chorus song on the opening day of the 27th Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan

KONGKON KARMAKER, from Joypurhat

The three-day long '27th Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan' began with much festivity at the Joypurhat Central Stadium yesterday.

The programme on the opening day featured group songs, dances, discussion and recitation by artists from different corners of the country.

The first session of the opening day's programme started with a chorus song performed by the singers from different districts of the country and was applauded by the

audience.

Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University and Central President of Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad and noted Tagore exponent Dr. Sanjida Khatun along with others inaugurated the programme.

Bulbul Islam, general secretary of Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad delivered the welcome speech. The event was presided over by Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui.

Nai nai bhoi, hobey hobey joi, another group performance was greeted with a round of applause.

The inaugural session wrapped up with a rendition of the National Anthem performed by artists.

The second session started at 7pm and featured Nazrul songs, dances and recitation of Tagore and Nazrul poems, along with Rabindra Sangeet.

Dilara Hasan, a non-resident Bangladeshi expressed her contentment, terming the program "fascinating".

Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad's Joypurhat unit organised the programme.

Learning many facets of art

Fareha Zeba's trip to Alexandria



FAYZA HAQ

"I was under the impression that Egyptian women were very modern and was surprised to see them in veils. Nevertheless, they were progressive. It was cold in Alexandria. There were 26 of us from overseas while six of the artists were Egyptians. The others came from South Africa, UK, Brussels, Kenya, Ghana etc. The youngest artist was 28 while the oldest was 77. People went in for photogra-

phy and animation too. Thus fine arts was not confined to oils and acrylics," says Fareha Zeba, who is back from her recent trip to Egypt.

A South African woman worked with the theme of an orphanage, says Zeba. The children drew on paper and these were converted into ships, which were depicted as going on the journey of life. Emily from Australia, was amazed to find the warmth among men for women. She took photographs of men and from that made a ten-

minute film.

In Alexandria, the artists stayed in an old and enormous place that had been ignored over the years. Anjelica from Poland and Mary from Belgium decided to clean the hundred year old items and on the opening day there were spotlights and notes on the need for the preservation of heritage. The Egyptians greatly appreciated this gesture.

Zeba centred her work on how Bangladesh artefacts had been taken to France against much objection. Basing on the destruction of the ancient art pieces in Baghdad, Zeba did her first piece. She depicted different artefacts forming out of a woman's womb. She related the land with the mother. Sculpture pieces were seen hanging from the painting. This was called "Death of a Civilisation".

(Left) An artwork by Zeba done during her trip to Alexandria



Fareha Zeba (2-R in the back) with artists from other countries in Egypt

The next piece based on Bangladesh was called "Civilisation is still there." In the artwork one saw a mother saving her unborn child.

Zeba was wondering how the workshop, which consisted of only female artists, would be viewed. However going there she found that the participants were very positive in their attitudes. Every participant tried to do her best and every work was unique.

"The six Egyptian artists had all different views. One of them put up a tent and strange, mysterious noises emanated from it. It was called "Dream Tent". Another had a slide show and video projection on the wall culture.

The South African artist, Catherine did portraits of the different artists and showed how they missed their homes in the days while they worked in Egypt. I felt that I had learnt a lot in my sojourn at Dwyer's International Workshop for Women in Alexandria," says Zeba.

"Gharowa Gaaner Ashor" by Prachya Shilpacharcha Academy

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A musical soiree by Prachya Shilpacharcha Academy was held at the Alamgir Kabir Chalachitra auditorium on March 13 evening. The programme highlighted Tagore songs on the season of *Bashonto*.

Artists performing at the soiree were Salma Akbar and Chhaya Rani Karmakar. The singers covered beautiful songs which received appreciation from the audience. Tuglat Azad, founder of Prachya Shilpacharcha Academy, spoke prior to the performance. Azad said, "The academy gives importance to perception of music in addition to performances."

On the occasion, an autobiography of the renowned singer, composer Abdul Ahad titled, *Asha Jawar Pothor Dharey* was presented to everyone in the audience. The MC of the programme Saraswati Rani Pal gave a brief introduction of the artists before they performed.

Chhaya Rani Karmakar received her music lessons from Ustad Nikhil Krishna. She went to Rabindrabharati and completed her Masters in music. Chhaya returned to Bangladesh in 2001. Currently she is working at both radio and television. She also runs an institution called 'Hrishobho Sangeet Angan'.

The other artists to perform at the programmes, Salma Akbar, trained at Chhayarat and Sangeet Bhaban. Her major course was Rabindra Sangeet. At present she is involved with Sangeet Bhaban, Sunbeams school and the Government Sangeet College.

Prachya Shilpacharcha Academy organises musical programmes on the second Thursday of every month. The academy will hold its next programme on the 10th of April, 2008.

The new kid on the block

In conversation with Emon

NAZIA ANADIL HUQ

In a recent interview with *The Daily Star*, model turned actor Emon said that he was overwhelmed when he was selected for the follow-up banglalink Desh ad. According to Emon, "I liked the first one and spread the word when I did the 4848 ad that I was interested in a song and dance act. And when ad-maker Amitabh Reza and banglalink approached me, I was thrilled."

"I am also indebted to Ibn Hasan Khan, marketing director of Channel i, who phoned to say I had been selected for the film *Daruchini Duip*, while I was shooting for an ad in Bangkok. It was a well-marketed and much hyped film. The director of *Daruchini Duip*, Tauquir Ahmed gave me a thorough briefing on my character. I went through acting and dance lessons. Shooting at St. Martin's Island, and in particular the use of helicopters was exciting. We went so far out into the sea that we were unsure about our location. We spent nine wonderful days working there."

The actor is at present doing his MBA at the Stamford University and says he grew up idolising model Nobel and dreamt of being a model himself. "I will eventually settle down to media related work, especially behind the camera. However, at the moment I am fully focused on acting and am taking lessons and watching films. I don't consider myself to be 'decent' actor and am trying my best to improve. I want to prove that with confidence and determination a model too can become an effective actor," says Emon.

Among seasoned actors, Emon admires Afzal Hossain, Fazlur Rahman Babu,



Emon's acting career is picking up fast

Musharruf Karim, Asaduzzaman Noor and Mahfuz Ahmed. "I am a huge fan of Amir Khan and I also like Kajol," reveals Emon.

Khojje Berai Tarey on ATN and *111 A Nelson Number* on ntv are some of the current serials Emon has acted in. *Doinik Tolpar* will soon be aired on Channel i.

"In my free time I listen to music, swim or hang out with

friends," says the actor who recently joined a production house as the general manager.

Going over a recent interesting experience, Emon smilingly says, "There is a scene in one of the recent TV plays where Joya Ahsan slaps me. She does it twice, once in the long shot and again in the close shot, and she hit quite hard to make it look real."