

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



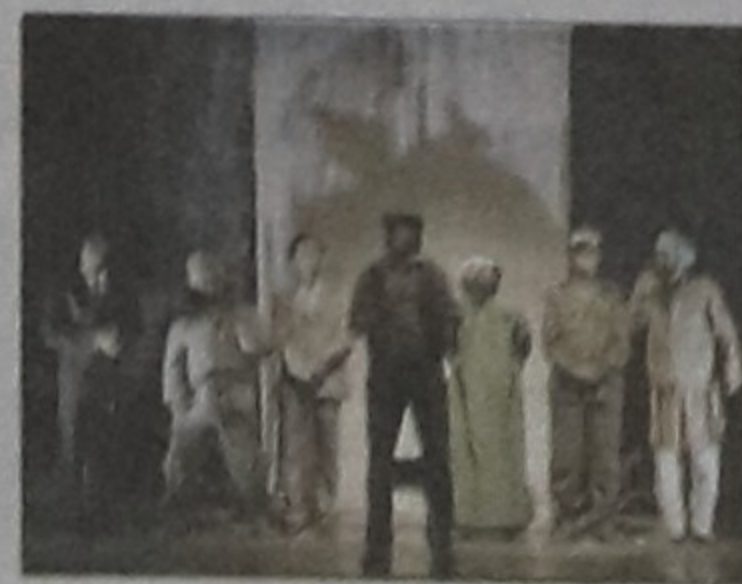
Festival de Théâtre Français

March 13-20
Organiser: Alliance Française de Dacca, Natuke, Fame School and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 17, Time: 7pm
Play: L'Avare, Troupe Loko Natyadoli



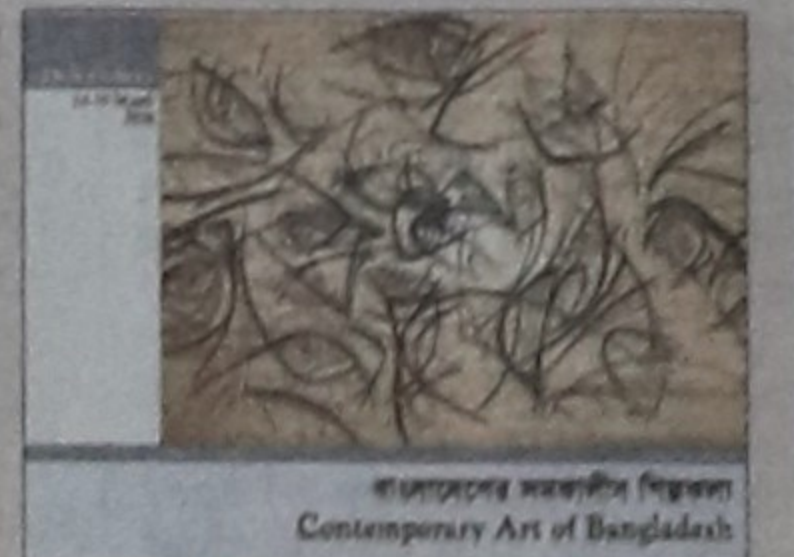
Theatre

Title: Raja Ebong Onnanyo
Troupe: Prachyanat
Venue: British Council Auditorium, 5, Fuller Road
Date: March 16, 17, 18
Time: 7pm



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



A montage of poems on Liberation War

Recitation programme by Sangbrita

NADIA SARWAT

To mark the occasion of our Independence Day, Sangbrita -- an organisation of reciters -- staged their production *Jotirmoy Aguney Aloy* at the Liberation War Museum on March 15. Directed by noted recitor Mahidul Islam, the production features a collection of poems on the Liberation War.

The poems included in the production highlight the indomitable Bengali spirit and sacrifices made during the war in 1971. Through Shamsur Rahman's familiar verse *Suadhinatata Tumi* to Rudra Mohammad Shahidullah's stirring *Batashey Lasher Gondho* -- the entire production seemed to move the audience at times with a profound love for our motherland and at times with wrath against the war criminals.

The evening began with Mahidul Islam reciting the poem *Suadhinatata Tumi*. Labonyo Shilpi rendered Abdul Gaffar Choudhury's *Amar Dukhini Bornomala* next. Shafiqul Islam rendered *Shahidder Protib* by Asad Choudhury, a poem that questions whether the contemporary Bangla-

desh represents the vision of the martyrs. Noor-e-Sonia Dipu's rendition of Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal's *Chhobi* -- a poem that depicts the post-war Bangladesh as a painting, having human skulls as its theme -- was greeted with rounds of applause. Masud Parvez recited Rudra Mohammad Shahidullah's *Concentration Camp*, featuring the brutalities at the Pakistani Military camps.

With some chorus renditions, the production also included poems by Nirmolendu Goon, Humayun Azad, Daud Haidar, Asim Saha, Fazal Shabuddin, Sohrab Hossain and more. Sangbrita members Sushmita Zafrin Tuli, Masud Parvez, Juthika Biswas, Kazi Rajesh, Jalal Uddin Hira, Taufiq Jahan Lopa and others recited the poems. *Jotirmoy Aguney Aloy* came to an end with Mahidul Islam's rendition of the poem *Batashey Lasher Gondho*.

"I tried to include poem that depict not only the spirit of our Liberation War, but also how the nation is slowly moving away from the values that inspired to fight for a free country. We believe, productions like this can contribute to generating a consciousness about that very spirit among the audience," said Mahidul Islam.



Mahidul Islam reciting at the programme

The second half of the event featured performances by guest artists invited by Sangbrita. Ashraf Alam, an artiste of the

Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, read out the historical 'Declaration of Independence' which was aired on March 27, 1971.

"Padaboli Kirtan"

A musical presentation highlighting the divinity of Krishna



Kirtanyas of Nabo Radharani Sampradaya present Padaboli Kirtan

ERSHAD KAMOL

A performance of *Padaboli Kirtan*, highlighting the divinity of Lord Krishna, was staged at the Sri Sri Baradeswari Kalimata Temple, Rajarbag, Madartek.

Nabo Radharani Sampradaya, a troupe of *Kirtanyas* from Gopalganj, performed the *Padaboli*

Kirtan on March 15.

As the presentation of *Padaboli Kirtan* began in the afternoon, the *ashon bandona* began with a rendition of *Raaga Bhimpalosee*.

Singer Mitali Bhakto of Nabo Radharani Sampradaya began improvisation on the *raaga* accompanied by bansi, *kortal*, *khol*, *dhol* and violin. Subsequently the lead singer Kanchoon Mala narrated the story from the

Geeta in which Krishna and Balarama meet Arjunmisa's wife Sati Lakshmi Brahmani.

The *Padaboli Kirtan* depicted the philosophy and culture of 'Vaisnavism' popularised by Sri Chaitanya (1486-1533). The way the *kirtan* was presented, it can be labelled as an example of the modern flexible theatre. The strength of the performance was the easy transition of narratives

and enactment of roles by the artistes.

The narrator at times rendered verses from the traditional *Vaisnava Padaboli* and at times she enacted the role of a character. Each time the narrator began enacting a certain role, another artiste of the ten member troupe sitting in a circle on the *ashon* (performing space) accompanied her, playing another role. The artistes, through their performances communicated with the audience seated on all sides of the *ashon*. Thus, the audience also became a part of the performance. The performers deftly expressed the different *rasa* (aesthetic sentiment) of the characters in particular sequences. The style of delivering dialogues can be compared with that of the traditional *jatra* artistes.

The *Padaboli Kirtan* performance was held as a part of the eight-day long programme on *kirtans*, followed by the Shivratri (March 6) celebration. The programme was organised by Sri Sri Baradeswari Kalimata Temple and Swashan Committee.

On the occasion a *mela* was also held at the temple premises. And on March 15, night a *Dharmajatra* titled *Daata Harishchandra* written by Brojen Chandra Dey and directed by Chittaranjan Das was staged.

Poets honoured in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A reception was accorded to poets of West Bengal at the local Muslim Institute on recently. The event organised by Swatantra Sahitya Patra was presided over by poet Farid Ahmed Dulal.

Among the poets honoured were: Ashish Sanyal, Mrinal Bose Chowdhury, Shachin Das, Jyotirmay Das and Asim Kumar Bose from West Bengal and Professor Jatni Sarker, president of the Udhichi Central Body. Professor Jatni Sarker is also a recipient of the Bangla Academy Award of this year for literature.

Professor Amir Ahmed Chowdhury, Poet Mosharrarf

Karim, Poet Abu Hasan Shahrier, Professor Md. Zakir Hossain and others spoke at the programme.

The speakers said that poets are the conscience of the society and throughout history, poetry has resonated the mass movements.

Pathar Chapa Phool written by Motendra Mankhin, an indigenous poet from Dhubaura Upazila was also launched at the programme. Local poets Shamsul Fayer, Ashraf Mir, Dhrubojoyoti Ghosh Mukul, Gausur Rahman and Rokshana Afeen recited their poems.

On the occasion a cultural programme was held. Presentations of *Chatu Gaan* and *Bhasan Jatrपाला* by Sarwar Chowdhury and Chan Miah's Troupe respectively entertained the audience.



Swatantra Sahitya Patra honoured poets at the programme

Khagrachhari Theatre stages "Rangdhanu"

Highlighting child education

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

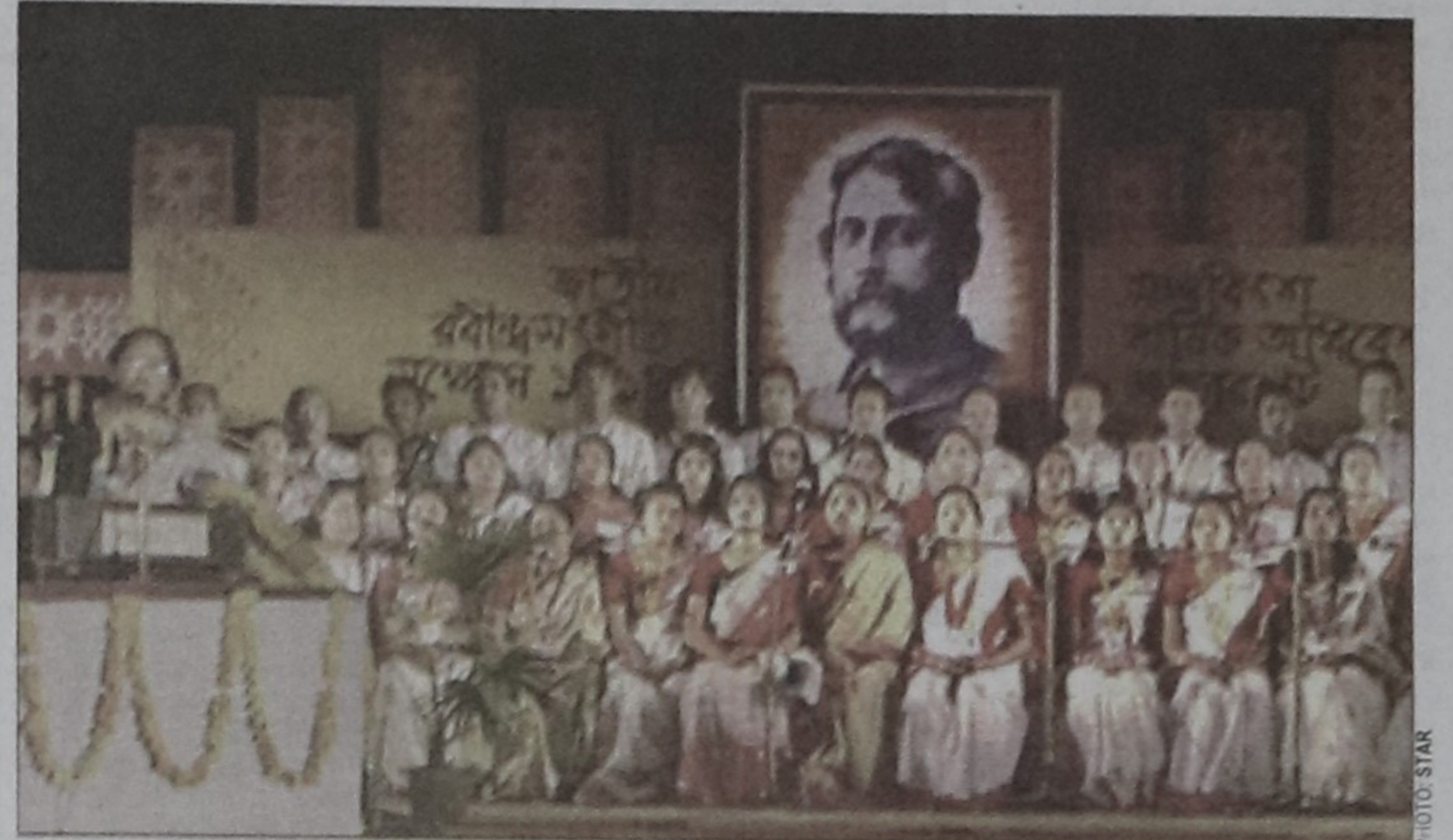
Local troupe, Khagrachhari Theatre, recently staged their production *Rangdhanu* at the Apar Perachhara village under Sadar Upazila. The play written by M.A Murtaza Palash features a message to encourage children to go to school.

The programme was organised by Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board under the sponsorship of UNICEF. A discussion was held to encourage the parents to send their children to primary schools.

Murtaza, who is also the president of Khagrachhari Theatre, informed *The Daily Star* that in the play, the actors demonstrate the techniques on how the children can learn at the pre-primary institutions in their own language and in a system that incorporates their heritage and culture.

The programme was aimed at ensuring quality education, developing the children's ability to learn, to have a clear concept of their own languages and traditions, discouraging child marriage, abuse and labour and more.

27th Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Call to invigorate the cultural arena



Artistes perform at the 27th Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

At a discussion held at the 27th Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan, the cultural activists of the country criticised the political parties who previously ruled the country for failing to develop and boost the cultural scene and education sector of the country.

The discussion was held on the second day of the Sammilan at Joypurhat on last Saturday morning.

Among others, noted human rights activist Sultana Kamal and Mafidul Haque, a trustee of the Liberation War Museum spoke at the discussion presided over by Sanad Saha.

The speakers urged the current

and successive governments to encourage and assist the cultural practices in the country.

Artistes from different corners of the country rendered songs of Tagore, Anul Prasad and Ranjini Kant.

At the programme Dr. Sanjida Khatun spoke on Tagore's philosophy of humanism.

Special telefilm "Achena Bondor" on ATN Bangla



(From left) Mamunur Rashid and Chanchal Chowdhury in the telefilm

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

ATN Bangla will air special tele-film *Achena Bondor* on the Independence Day (March 26) at 2:40 pm. The telefilm has been written and directed by Mamunur Rashid.

The story revolves around the family of Dr. Tang and factory owner Wesan. Their ancestors had migrated to Bangladesh from China during the early 1900s and have been living here since then. They have endured the Liberation War, supporting the people of this country, but the people failed to understand their sentiments. At the same time they face the wrath of the Pakistani soldiers and end up losing family members. With a heavy heart, they start their journey to the land of their ancestors -- from a territory that seems unknown now to an unfamiliar destination.

The cast includes Mamunur Rashid, Champa, Chanchal Chowdhury, Tushar Khan, Shah Alam Dulal, Joyraj, Shameem Zaman, Masud Rana Mithu and Chinese actors.

The premiere of the tele-film will be held on March 20 at the ATN Bangla studio, at 4:00 pm.

A book on Bengali experience in the pre and post-Liberation War Pakistan

A book titled *Pancha Shindhu Nadiyo Katha* on pre and post 1972 experience of Bengalis in Pakistan by Mahbubur Rahman was launched recently at Kabi Sufia Kamal auditorium, National Museum. March is the month when Bengalis tend to recall the events of Pakistani atrocities and the nine-month long Liberation War.

The author chose this month to publish his accounts of the plight of Bengalis trapped in Pakistan in 1972 and their desperate effort to escape.

Dr. Akbar Ali Khan, chairman, Regulatory Commission and a former adviser of the caretaker government was the chief guest at the launching ceremony, organised by Professor Arifa Rahman of Dhaka University.



Mirza Salman Ispahani, Managing Director of Ispahani Group, handing over a crest to a student on the occasion of annual sports and cultural programme at Mirza Ahmed Ispahani High School, Chittagong. Mirza Salman Ispahani was the chief guest at the event that took place recently, says a press release. The students also participated in a colourful cultural programme that was organised as part of the celebrations