

WHAT'S  
ON THIS  
WEEK

## Musical Soiree

Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Padatik Sangeet Sangsad  
Venue: National Music and Dance Centre, BSA  
Date: April 4  
Time: 7-15pm

Solo Art  
Exhibition

Artist: Shahid Kabir  
Venue: Gallery Chitrag, Road 4, House 21, Dhammondi  
Date: March 29-April 10  
Time: 10am-8pm

Group  
Photography  
Exhibition

Organiser: Britto Arts Trust  
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A (new), Dhammondi  
Date: April 4-10

Group Art  
Exhibition

Title: 65<sup>th</sup> Grand group art exhibition of reputed Bangladeshi Artists  
Organiser: Saju Art Gallery  
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, F40-41, D.C.C., north Super Market, 2<sup>nd</sup> circle, Gulshan.



## A nod to Wahidul Haque's vision

## Folk festival by Chhayanat

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To mark the 75th birth anniversary of Tagore exponent and cultural activist Wahidul Haque, Chhayanat arranged a two-day long folk festival titled *Desh Ghorer Gaan* on March 29 and 30. Folk artists from different districts of the country performed at the festival -- in two sessions each day -- at the Chhayanat Sanskriti Bhaban and Bakultala, Institute of Fine Arts, DU premises.

Wahidul Haque, one of the founders of Chhayanat, believed that to perceive the true essence of our culture, we have to recognise the treasure-trove of our folk songs. Since last year, Chhayanat has been arranging this folk festival to realise this vision. The objective of this festival is to identify, perceive, promote and preserve the diverse genres of Bangladeshi folk songs and thus reinforce our unique cultural identity.

Noted folk artiste Fakir Abdul Karim Shah along with fellow artistes of Kushtia, including Fakir Bazlu Shah, Abdul Mannan Fakir, Aklima Baul, Baul Shafi Mandal, Anjali Ghosh Durga and others presented Lalon songs on the first day of the festival.

"Wahidul Haque always wanted highlight folk songs in Chhayanat's cultural activities. But due to certain limitations, we have not been

Manosha Mongol Sampraday from Ujirpur, Barisal perform *Royani Gaan* at the festival

able to realise his vision until last year," said Dr. Sanjida Khatun, president of Chhayanat, at the inauguration of the festival at the Institute of Fine Arts. Professor Khan Sarwar Murshid then

launched a collection of essays by Wahidul Haque.

A good number of music enthusiasts enjoyed folk music at the Bakultala in the evening. The audience seemed engrossed in the

performance of *Royani Gaan* -- featuring stories from the *Manosha Mongol* that celebrates the supremacy of the serpent goddess *Manosha*. *Manosha Mongol Sampraday* from Ujirpur, Barisal

presented the *pala*.

The first session of the second day featured *Baul* songs by the artistes from Netrokona. Songs of several *Bauls* such as Deen Sharat, Jalaluddin Khan, Ukil Munshi, Meraj Ali and Abdul Karim performed at the event. Sumangal Sheel, Abdul Hakim, Sirajuddin Khan Pathan, Dilbahar Khan, Mukul Miah from Netrokona and Babul Sarker from Sylhet performed the songs.

The three-hour session included songs tinged with different moods and expressions. In *Koto kotha uthheyamar mon-e* -- a song by Ukil Munshi -- Radha shares her woes to her *sakhi*. Mukul Miah's *Shohojey keu paina tarey* carries a profound spiritual message. *Ogo ghorar byapari* addresses the unhealthy competitive and materialistic attitude of people. *Allah-e banaichhey ki shundar ghor* -- a spiritual song and the popular *Boshonto Batashey* by Baul-Samarat Shah Abdul Karim were part of the repertoire.

An open discussion followed. Dr. Biplab Bala addressed the issue of communication gap between Baul songs and the urban listeners due to the regional nature of the former.

Helim Boyati and his troupe from Kendua, Netrokona, performed *Jari Gaan* at Bakultala in the evening. The last performance of the evening was *Mahishashur Badh Pala* performed by Rashimoni Hajong Sanskritik Dol of Dhobaura-Durgapur, Netrokona.

## Kranti Shilpi Goshthi celebrates 41st anniversary

MAINUL HASSAN

To celebrate its 41st anniversary cultural organisation Kranti Shilpi Goshthi (KSG) arranged a programme at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library on March 29.

The programme started with a group rendition of *Notun din-e notun bhorey daak diye jaay* by the members of KSG.

At the programme KSG honoured journalist Nirmol Sen, President of Udichi Shilpi Gosti, Jatin

Sarkar and noted theatre artiste Shimul Yusuf with the Kranti Padak 2008.

Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman was the chief guest at the programme. Cultural personality Kamal Lohani and Golam Kuddus, general secretary of Sammlito Sanskritik Jote were present at special guests. Political leader Rashed Khan Memon was also present at the programme.

Each honouree received a crest and an *uttoriyo*.

The cultural programme opened with a recitation of the

poem *Amra Ghumabona*, written by Mahbul Alam Chowdhury. Other performances included recitation by Shima Islam and songs by Nilufar Baru Lili and Sanjida Manzurul.

Zobeda Begum Jui and Mosharaf Hossain recited *Operation Searchlight* by poet Mosharaf Hossain.

The event wrapped up with a short play *Bishhashghatok* staged by KSG. KSG dedicated the programme to the memory of the late poet and Language Movement veteran Mahbul Alam Chowdhury.



Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman hands over a crest to Jatin Sarkar (R)

## Mahanagar Natyotshob '08 ends today

## "Mayur Shinghashon": Last play of the festival

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The nine-day Mahanagar Natyotshob '08, jointly arranged by Dhaka City Corporation and Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation at the Zahir Raihan Sanskritik Kendra, ends today. Plays included at the festival were: *Samayer Proyojone*, *Binodoni*, *Shat Ghatar Kanakori*, *Khandani Kissa*, *Totaram*, *Kanjush*, *Bhaddornok*, *Jalodash* and *Mayur Shinghashon*.

The organisers claim that the target to introduce and popularise the newly built Zahir Raihan Sanskritik Kendra as a major cultural venue has been achieved. Each day a remarkable number of Old Dhaka residents -- from different backgrounds and age -- came over to watch theatre performances staged by leading troupes of the country.

Moreover, the theatre actor-directors have also expressed their contentment with the standard of the auditorium. They believe that the newly built cultural centre will play a significant role in decentralising the Ramna area based theatre activities.

The festival wraps up today with

Actors of Aranyak Natyadal in the play *Mayur Shinghashon*

the staging of the Aranyak Natyadal production *Mayur Shinghashon*.

*Mayur Shinghashon* is a political satire. Featuring the story of a rural *jatra* troupe, Mannan Heera's play highlights the ordeal the religious minority groups experienced in the '60s.

Quite a few of the minority

groups in the '60s suffered the same fate as Dilip Das, the protagonist of the play. Many patriots belonging to the minority communities in those days faced discrimination and injustice from the fundamentalist rulers and were forced to leave their motherland. Shah Alam Dulal is the director of the play.

## Weeklong book fair ends in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A seven-day long book fair concluded here recently.

Tangail Public Library with the help of Jatiya Granthakendra and District Administration organised the book fair at the Bhasani Hall premises recently.

With Tangail Deputy Commissioner (DC) and president of Public Library Akhter Ali Sarkar in the chair, director of Jatiya Granthakendra Mahmudur Rahman addressed at the inaugural function as chief guest.

Among others, Tangail District Awami League President advocate Shamsur Rahman Khan Shajahan, Principal Sekandar Hyaat Khan and Tangail Public Library vice-president Khandakar Nazimuddin spoke.

Literature competition, discussion meeting and cultural function were also held at the Bhasani Hall auditorium besides the book fair.

With journalist Khan Mohammad Khaled in the chair, retired joint secretary Sayeed M Lutfullah addressed at the concluding function as chief guest.

A total of 19 local stalls and 13 stalls of the publications from Dhaka took part at the book fair, the organisers informed.

## Female Freedom Fighters receive financial assistance from NRBs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Eleven female freedom fighters received financial assistance from non-resident Bangladeshis (NRB) at an informal programme in Sirajganj.

The event was arranged by Uttaran Mahila Sangstha (UMS) at its conference room in Sirajganj town last Friday.

Nasiruddin Yousuff, president of

Sammlito Sangskritik Jote, and chief guest at the event, gave away cash and everyday essential items including rice, pulse and edible oil to the female freedom fighters. Safina Lohani, president of UMS presided over the programme.

Freedom fighter and Awami League leader Anwar Hossain and theatre personality Shimul Yusuf, among others, spoke as special guests.

NRBs decided to lend a hand to the female freedom fighters after learning about their woes published in different newspapers.

Speakers at the programme demanded an immediate trial of the war criminals.

Local artistes performed a play based on the Liberation War at the programme.

## Udichi celebrates birth centenary of Satyen Sen

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigosthi celebrated the birth centenary of the noted litterateur, journalist and social activist Satyen Sen (1907-1981) -- the founder of Udichi -- at the Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium, Central Public Library on March 29. The event included discussion and a cultural programme.

The programme opened with a chorus rendition of the song *Hey mohamanab, akbar esho phirey* by the artistes of Udichi. Then Manzar Choudhury, the assistant general secretary of Udichi's central committee presented a short biography of Satyen Sen.

Born in Shonarong village of Munshiganj district, Satyen Sen was a revolutionary activist in the anti-Raj movement. He believed in the Marxist ideology and worked with the farmers and labourers. A large part of his life was spent behind bars, and it was in prison where his literary prowess was first demonstrated. *Bhorer Bihongi* (1959), *Abhishapta Nagari* (1969), *Bidrohi Koiborto* (1970), *Maa* (1970) and *Uttaran* (1970) among others are some of his acclaimed novels. He has received several awards including the Adamji Sahitya Purashkar (1967), Bangla Academy Literary Award (1970), and a posthumous Ekushey Padak (1986).

The discussion was held on the occasion, presided over by professor Badur Rahman, vice president of Udichi. Eminent journalist and cultural personality Kamal Lohani; Professor Syed Azizul Haque, Dhaka University; journalist Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul; Lenin Chowdhury, general secretary of Kendriyo Khelaghar Ashor and others participated in the discussion.

In his welcome speech, Mahmud Selim, general secretary of Udichi said, "People like Satyen Sen, Ranesh Dasgupta and others realised the significance of cultural freedom along



Kamal Lohani speaks at the discussion

with sovereignty. Throughout his life, Satyen Sen tirelessly worked for this cultural freedom, Udichi is his last contribution."

As a representative of the young generation, Udichi's member Tanvir Ahmed Sajib addressed the lack of availability of publications by Satyen Sen.

Kamal Lohani said in his speech, "Nowadays, we hear the phrase 'political reformation' frequently but no such reformation is possible without the reformation of ideologies. We can achieve it only by following the path shown by people like Satyen Sen."

Farzana Rahman of Udichi rendered

*Manushery bhalobashi* -- a song written by Satyen Sen -- at the cultural programme that followed the discussion. It was followed by Qazi Madina's recitation of the Tagore poem *Suprabhat*.

Artistes of cultural organisation Kranti along with members of Udichi presented chorus songs. Noted singer Bulbul Moholanobish, Timir Nandi, Shahjahan Tota and others performed solos. Hassan Arif, Rabishankar Maitri, Belayet Hossain and Laila Atroz recited poems.

Led by Tamanna Rahaman, dance organisation *Nriyama* also performed at the event.

## Festival featuring Bengali films based on literature

Just a few decades ago, the mainstream Bengali movie industry produced a numbers of quality films based on literature, which achieved commercial success. To reinvent literature-based Bengali movies, a film festival is going to be held from April 18 to 24, featuring Bengali films from both Bangladesh and West Bengal, India, says a press release.

Nandan Cinema Hall and West Bengal Film Society are jointly organising this grand event titled "First Cinema Festival Featuring Literature-based Films of the Two Bengals." The films will be screened at Nandan-2 Cinema Hall, West Bengal. West Bengal Film Society hopes that the festival, which is an extension of their movement to revive the literature-based films, will set an example.

A total of sixteen films, eight from each

country have been selected. Incidentally all of the eight films from Bangladesh have been produced by Impress Telefilm Ltd.

According to the organisers, the participating Bangladeshi films are -- *Megher Porey Megh* (written by Rabeya Khatun and directed by Chashi Nazrul Islam); *Daruchini Dwip* (written by Humayun Ahmed and directed by Tauqir Ahmed); *Duratto* (written by Humayun Ahmed and directed by Morshedul Islam); *Nironitor* (written by Humayun Ahmed and directed by Abu Sayeed); *Ek Khondo Jomi* (based on *Dirgho Kobita* by Shahabuddin Nagri and directed by Shahjahan Chowdhury); *Shyamal Chhaya* (written and directed by Humayun Ahmed); *Shankhanaad* (written by Nasrin Jahan and directed by Abu Sayeed) and *Ghani* (written and directed by Kazi Morshed).

A scene from *Shankhanaad*