

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Musical Soiree

Artist: Fahim Hossain Chowdhury
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Music and Dance Centre Auditorium, BSA
Date: April 10
Time: 7:15pm



Theatre

Play: Sonal Madhab
Organiser: Loko Natyadal
Venue: Mahila Samiti Auditorium, Bailey Road
Date: April 11
Time: 7pm



Cultural Programme

Organiser: Shurer Dhara
Venue: Lalmitia Girls High School, Lalmitia
Date: April 13
Time: 6 pm



Musical Soiree

Artists: Sumon Chowdhury and Arindita Chowdhury
Organiser: Prachya Shilpakalpa Parishad
Venue: Alamgir Kabir Chalachitra Kendra, 62, Science Laboratory Road
Date: April 10, **Time:** 7pm



Shooting underway for Tanvir Mokammel's film "Rabeya"



Bannya Mirza and Masum Aziz in the film

Shooting for Tanvir Mokammel's film 'Rabeya' is well underway, according to a press release. The film received a government grant.

The backdrop of the film is the Liberation War. Ibrahimpur is a village by the river Rupsha. A Pakistani Captain and his troop have stationed here. Emdad Quazi is the chairman of the local Shanti Committee. Emdad's orphan nieces -- Rabeya and Rokeya -- stay with him and his family. Emdad wants to marry Rabeya off to his son,

Tariqul. Khaled, Rabeya's brother, joins the Mukti Bahini. One night during a strike carried out by the guerrillas, Khaled is shot dead. His corpse is left in the open by the river Rupsha -- to generate fear among the villagers. Rabeya cannot bear to see her brother's corpse being desecrated and sets out alone in the night to bury him. She is spotted by the *razakars* and they kill her. Rabeya's death infuriates and awakens the villagers' valour. After the freedom

fighters win over the Pakistani army, Rabeya is declared a "shaheed". The cast includes Ali Zaker, Tauqir Ahmed, Bannya Mirza and Chitralekha Guho.

So far the film has been shot at different locations in Khulna and Bagerhat.

The film is written and directed by Tanvir Mokammel. Anwar Hussain is the cinematographer and Uttam Guho is the art director. Syed Sabab Ali Aarzu is the music director of the film.

Music festival by Bhawaiyya Angan

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Bhawaiyya Angan organised a festival at the Engineers Institute Auditorium on April 8, marking its third anniversary. The first segment of the festival started with a workshop on Bhawaiyya songs -- its history and evolution in the contemporary times. The programme was inaugurated by artist and composer Hafizur Rahman. Singers Nur Muhammad, S.M. Alauddin, Ranjit Roy, Mohammed Shafiqul Islam, Rupa Majumder and Rafiqul Islam Sarkar performed at the programme.

The second part of the programme was inaugurated by music exponent Dr. Karunmaya Goswami. The

evening session included an award-giving ceremony followed by musical performances. Bhawaiyya artist Kazi Maqbul Hossain; folklore researcher Dr. Ashraf Siddiqui and eminent folk music researcher and artist Mostafa Zaman Abbasi were honoured at the programme.

A discussion was chaired by Bhawaiyya Angan's Chairman Salma Mustafiz. The organisation's founder A.K.M. Mustafizur Rahman in his speech elaborated on how the organisation is working towards preserving the folk genre.

Around thirty Bhawaiyya singers from Dhaka, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Kurigram, performed at the show.



PHOTO: STAR

Dr. Ashraf Siddiqui (left) receives his medal from Dr. Karunmaya Goswami

Rokonuzzaman Khan Dadabhai's 83rd birth anniversary observed



PHOTO: STAR

Mustafa Nurul Islam speaks at the discussion

JAMIL MAHMUD

On the occasion of the 83rd birth anniversary of noted litterateur, journalist and founder of the children's organisation Kachi Kanchar Mela -- Rokonuzzaman Khan Dadabhai (1925-1999), a discussion was held at the Kachi Kancha Bhaban, Segunbagicha on April 8. At the discussion arranged by Rokonuzzaman Khan Dadabhai Smriti Sangsad (RKDSS), former members of Kachi Kanchar Mela reminisced on Dadabhai's life and works.

Noted artist Hashem Khan delivered the welcome speech. The veteran artist has been involved with Kachi Kanchar Mela since its inception.

Noted litterateur Mustafa Nurul Islam was the chief guest at the programme.

Among others, journalist Kamal Lohani; novelist Anwara Syed

Haque; Professor Hazera Nazrul; artist Sayeeda Kamal and Selina Khaleque reminisced on their fond memories of Dadabhai.

Editor of the weekly magazine *Begum*, Nurjahan Begum (Dadabhai's wife), also the president of RKDSS, presided over the programme. Nurjahan Begum stressed on naming the auditorium at Kachi Kancha Bhaban after Dadabhai. She also spoke on the need to publish a compilation of Dadabhai's letters, published in the children's page *Kachi Kanchar Ashor* of the *Daily Ittefaq*.

Rokonuzzaman Khan Dadabhai

was born in Pangsha, Rajbari on April 9, 1925. His grandfather Mohammad Rawshan Ali Chowdhury was the editor of the monthly magazine *Kohinoor*. Dadabhai's initiation in journalism happened through the *Daily Ittehad* (published from Kolkata) in 1948. He was the editor of the children's section.

Dadabhai joined the *Daily Ittefaq* in 1955 as the editor of the *Mufasssil* section. Simultaneously he took charge of the children's section. Eventually he became the editor of literature and feature desk of the newspaper.

Dadabhai formed the children's organisation Kachi Kanchar Mela in 1956. He was the chief of the organisation till death.

In his illustrious career, Dadabhai performed several important roles in different organisations. He received the Bangla Academy Award in 1968 and the Shishu Academy Award in 1994.

Among his notable works for children are -- *Ajob Holeo Gupob Noy*, *Hattima Tim* and *Khokon Khokon Daak Pari*.

Rokonuzzaman Khan Dadabhai passed away on December 3, 1999. In 2000, he received the Swadhinata Dibosh Award (posthumous).

Artistic skills of Shoshen and Shyamol Acharja go unnoticed



The talented sculptor duo with their creations

PHOTO: STAR

MUKLESUR RAHMAN LITON, Kishoreganj

Many an artistic talent goes unnoticed until the artist wins a major competition. Such is the story of sculptors Shoshen Acharja and Shyamol Acharja who have bagged gold medals at the national level.

"We can capture the expres-

sions and body language of any human or living creature," said Shoshen, a student of Class X at Shoilati High School in Tarail upazila who in 2006 won the first prize for clay work (Kha division) at a competition organised by the Bangladesh Shishu Academy (BSA).

Not to be left behind, his younger brother Shyamol won the first prize in the same category in 2007.

Shyamol studies in Class IX at the same school.

It has been a tough haul for the duo. Humayun Kabir Bhuiyan, chairman of the Damliha Union Parishad, said that the boys' father Shushil Acharja could not afford the conveyance expenses to send the boys to the BSA competition in Dhaka. Meanwhile, the residents of the union were sure that the brothers would win at the presti-

gious competition and raised the required funds in 2006 and 2007.

A visit to the family home of the boys in Damliha village reveals a financially strained family. The small *uthaan* (open space in front of the house) is the brothers' makeshift studio. Their house is not big enough for a family of five. It's a constant struggle, they say, to pursue their art. Apparently there is hardly any place to keep their artworks and when it rains they cannot continue their work in the open space. What's worse is that there is hardly any privacy as curious passersby gather around when they are hard at work.

The artist duo says that they are compelled to use rather primitive tools as they cannot afford the modern equipments used at the sculpture department of art colleges and other institutes. Their explanation is that their father, a day labourer, cannot afford the additional expenses.

Abdur Razzak, head teacher of Shoshen and Shyamol's school, testifies to their talent but points out that such impediments to their art need to be ironed out.

Nevertheless the brothers soldier on. They devote 15-20 days to complete a sculpture and manage to put in two to three hours daily on their artistic work after returning from school.

Their sculptures include representations of Mona Lisa, National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Kabiguru Rabindranath Tagore, Duranta, a farmer at work and more.

Razzak hopes that the talented brothers will have the opportunity to refine their artistic skills and -- with a little help from the right quarters -- emerge as sculptors par excellence at the international level.

Clooney mourns movie 'golden age'

Oscar-winning actor George Clooney has said that Hollywood is no longer making film "masterpieces".

The star, nominated at this year's Academy Awards for his role in *Michael Clayton*, told *Radio Times* "they don't make those films anymore".

Clooney said that "the golden age of cinema" for him is 1964-76, when "you could find 10 films a year that were masterpieces".

The actor denied there were plans for an *ER* reunion, saying it was a rumour perpetuated by fans on the internet.

"I'm of the generation that still believes that if it's written down

there's some element of truth," adding: "It's suddenly passed back and forth and then it's fact."

Clooney, who has already won an Academy Award for *Syriana*, said that his successful career was more down to luck than sheer talent.

"Had I not got the Thursday night ten o'clock slot at *ER*, if they'd put us on Friday night, then I wouldn't have a film career. That's luck, not my own genius, though I like to think it was."

British actor Tom Wilkinson, who was also nominated for an Oscar for his performance in *Michael Clay-*

ton, told the *Radio Times* that the Bafta awards are dominated by Hollywood films.

"There aren't enough British films in the main nominations. It's almost all American films," he said.

"Maybe what it's saying is that there is no British film industry, which is sort of true."

"It's a shame that there has to be a best British film category. If British films can't compete at a global level, then it's just a bit parochial," he added.

Source: Internet



George Clooney

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Winter Garden, Hotel Sheraton
11 April 2008 at 6:00 pm
Ticket Price : Tk.700

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