

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Theatre

Play: Troilus and Cressida
Troupe: Nagarik Natya Sampradaya
Venue: Mahila Samiti Auditorium, Natak Swarani
Date: May 20
Time: 7pm



Workshop and Exhibition 2008

Special show of art works by participants of the workshop conducted by eminent artist Shahid Kabir
Title: Egg Tempora
Venue: Zaimul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, DU
Date: May 11-17



Art Exhibition

Title: Symphony In Drawing
Artist: Ranjit Das
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H 26, R 3, Dhanmondi
Date: May 14-28
Time: 10am-1pm and 5pm-8pm



Photo and Cartoon Exhibition

On the 60th anniversary of the occupation of Palestine
Title: Sixty Years of Illegitimate Occupation, Sixty Years of Sacred Resistance
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, R 15A (new), Dhanmondi, Date: May 14-18, Time: 3pm-8pm



Ode to motherland

Bengal Foundation launches "Mukto Koro Bhoy"

AUREEN AHSAN

Bengal Foundation launched the album *Mukto Koro Bhoy* at Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi on May 13. The album is a compilation of 12 patriotic Rabindra Sangeet rendered by Iffat Ara Dewan, Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, Sajed Akbar, Mita Haque, Bulbul Islam, Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury, Laisa Ahmed Lisa and Aditi Mohsin. This was Bengal's way of celebrating Rabindranath's 147th birth anniversary. The programme also included live performances by the artistes.

Classical singer, Shanti Sharma, who passed away recently in Delhi at the age of 52, was remembered at the programme. A one-minute-silence was observed in Shanti Sharma's memory.

President of Bengal Foundation, Abul Khair invited the chief guest Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) A.K. Khandaker to launch the CD. "I greatly enjoy listening to Rabindra Sangeet and hope that this CD will be appreciated by the listeners as well," said the chief guest after formally unveiling the CD.

The musical programme began with a choral rendition of *Shongkocheer bihobolota nijeri opoman*, which is also the opening track of the CD. Next, Iffat Ara Dewan rendered *Sharthok jonomo amar*. One by one, the artiste presented their songs from the album, which included *O amar desher mati* by Bulbul Islam; *Tor apojoney chharbey toray* by Laisa Ahmed Lisa; *Banglar mati Banglar jol* by Fahim Hossain; *Amra milechi aaj maayer daakey* by Aditi Mohsin; *Ke eshey jae phirey phirey* by Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury and *Ei kothata dhore rakhish* by Mita Haque.



Artistes sing at the album launch

Aditi Mohsin's composed breathy voice and Laisa Ahmed's melodious notes created a harmonious contrast. Other performances included *Jodi tor daak shuney ke na ashey* by Bulbul Islam and *Aaji Bangladesh hridoy hotey* by

Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury, inducing a spirit of patriotism among the audience. The last performance of the evening was *Nai nai bhoy, hobe hobe joy* by Mita Haque. The show wrapped up with the crowd applauding the flawless rendition.

Sajed Akbar, who could not attend the programme, has lent his voice to the song *Orey nuton juger bhorey* in the album.

A touching gesture was everyone singing the National Anthem along with the artistes.

PHOTO: MUMIT M

"Akhtari Banu": Plight of a Geneva Camp dweller

Mamunur Rashid talks about his latest digital film

ERSHAD KAMOL

Noted actor-director-playwright Mamunur Rashid's latest digital film *Akhtari Banu* will be premiered today at the Liberation War Museum. The film addresses the "identity crisis" of the people living at the Geneva Camp in Mohammadpur. Rashid is the screenplay writer and director of the 45-minute-long film.

Akhtari Banu's story brings to light the plight of the Urdu-speaking people, who are also known as "stranded Pakistanis". Mamun said, "I demand the trial of War Criminals who collaborated with the Pakistani Army. However, as an artiste, I feel for those ill-fated people who don't have access to the most basic things in these camps. Many of them were not involved in the war; generations were born after the war in the camps. I've also tried to address the division among them in regards to their desire for citizenship."

"The film delivers an anti war message. The titular character Akhtari Begum goes through an ordeal during the Hindu-Muslim riot before the Partition in 1947. Subsequently, she and her child face problems of a new form - 'identity crisis' after the Liberation War," he added.

Most of the film was shot at the BISIC Area in Tangail. Mamunur Rashid said, "The setting of the



Tamalika Karmakar (R) and co-actrice in the film

place resembles the Old Mohammadpur area in the mid-20th century."

Tamalika Karmakar, Chanchal Chowdhury, Joyraj, Shah Alam Dulal and others play the central roles in the film.

Talking about his current projects, Mamunur Rashid said that besides acting in TV serials for the private channels, he is also acting in BTV plays. In his words, "About a decade, I've started working in the BTV plays. I'm also writing scripts for BTV."

Referring to his 10-year hiatus from BTV plays, Rashid said, "I was a victim of politicisation by the BTV authority during the period. Now, the scenario has somewhat changed. Several senior artistes like me are performing in BTV plays now."

"But, BTV needs further reform to compete with the private TV channels. More talents should be recruited. And the artistes' remuneration should be reviewed as well," Rashid observed.

Poetry recitation at Russian Centre of Science and Culture

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The 147th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore and the 185th birth anniversary of Russian playwright Alexander Ostrovsky were celebrated by the literary society Jionkathi with a recitation programme at the Exhibition Hall of Russian Centre of Science and Culture on May 13. The programme featured recitation of both Tagore and Ostrovsky's writings.

The programme started with renowned contemporary poets and writers -- Nirmalendu Goon, Rubi Rahman, Anisul Haque, Tokon Thakur and Alfred Khokon -- reciting their works.

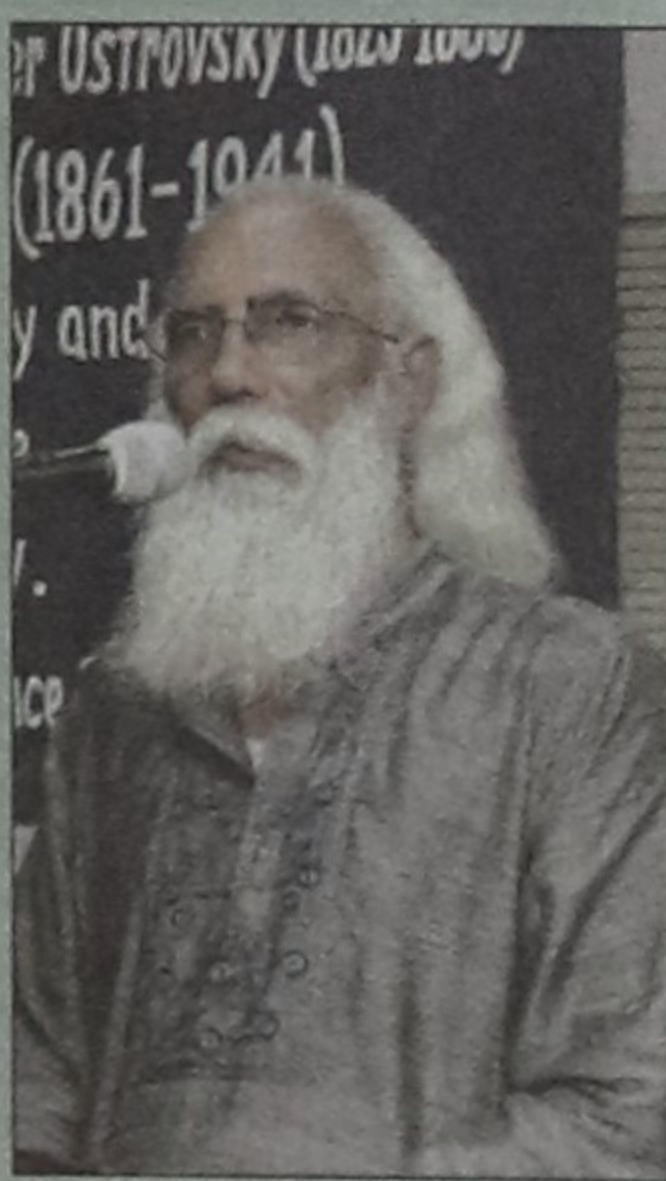
It is widely considered that Rabindranath Tagore composed some of his best works in East Bengal. Tagore lived in Shilaidaha, Shahzadpur and other areas in the Northwest for several years.

Artistes of Jionkathi rendered several poems written by Tagore during his stay in East Bengal. Several poems were also recited as homage to Tagore.

Alexander Ostrovsky (1823-1889) was a playwright in nineteenth century Russia -- considered as the "golden era" of Russian art and literature.

Artistes of Jionkathi read out excerpts from Ostrovsky's play *Thunderstorm*.

Jionkathi regularly arranges such programmes, featuring works of contemporary poets. The programme is held once every two months. The next programme to be held on the first week of September is expected to feature Leo Tolstoy's writings.



Nirmalendu Goon



Rubi Rahman



Anisul Haque



Reciters of Jionkathi at the programme

PHOTO: MUMIT M

Generating awareness through plays at primary schools

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Primary Education Department, Pabna has taken an initiative to stage plays at primary school premises to generate awareness among the students. The play *Shopno Puron* was staged at four

primary schools in Faridpur upazila and Ishwardi upazila last Monday.

An inaugural programme was held at Gopalpur Govt. Primary School in Faridpur upazila on May 12. Faridpur Upazila Education Officer, Suresh Chandra Bishwas

was the chief guest. The speakers stressed on generating awareness among children on various aspects of life.

Later, a play *Shopno Puron* was staged in Gopalpur Govt. Primary School and Berhawlia School in Faridpur upazila. Gonoshilpi

Sanghtha, a local cultural organisation staged the play.

Bhaskor Chowdhuri of Gonoshilpi Natya Biddaypith directed the play. School students enacted different roles. Health education and early marriage were addressed in the play.

Michael Moore versus Bush again?

Oscar-winning filmmaker Michael Moore has begun work on a "searing and provocative" follow-up to his 2004 political documentary *Fahrenheit 9/11*, with plans to release it next year, producers said last Tuesday.

The as-yet-untitled movie is being co-financed and distributed by two small studios -- Overture Films, a subsidiary of John Malone's Liberty Media Corp, and Paramount Vantage, an art-house label of Viacom Inc's Paramount Pictures.

Moore, the writer and director, began work on the project in recent months and agreed to a spring 2009 commercial release, deliberately choosing to launch the movie after this fall's U.S. presidential election, said Overture's chief operating officer, Danny Rosett.

In keeping with Moore's penchant for secrecy surrounding his projects, the studios divulged few details of his latest work except to describe it as a follow-up to *Fahrenheit 9/11*.

That film, a scathing critique of President George W. Bush and his decision to go to war in Iraq, grossed \$119 million (€16 million pounds) at the U.S. box office to become the most commercially successful political documentary of all time.

Rosett said Moore's focus in his new film is a broader look at the United States' position as an industrialised nation and world power since the attacks of September 11, 2001.

"He intends to examine how America's role in the world has changed over the last eight years," Rosett said, adding that Moore did not want the film to be seen as a "politically motivated piece."

"That's why I think he felt strongly about not having it come out before the elections," he told Reuters.

By contrast, *Fahrenheit 9/11* was released months before the 2004 presidential election, with Moore saying then that he hoped it would help galvanize the U.S. electorate to support Bush's Democratic opponent, John Kerry.

Bush won election to a second term, but Moore later said he and other politically active show business figures had helped spare Democrats an even bigger defeat.

Rosett said Moore's new film would be similar in style to his previous works, blending archival footage, humour, research and segments featuring Moore himself.

Moore followed the same format in *Fahrenheit 9/11*, as well as in last year's critique of the U.S. health care system, *Sicko*, and his Oscar-winning 2002 documentary about America's gun culture, *Bowling for Columbine*.

Overture Films will release Moore's new movie in the United States, and Paramount Vantage will offer it for sale to international distributors this week at the Cannes film market, where Moore is set to make an appearance, the studios said.



Michael Moore

Source: Internet