

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Musical Soiree

On Waheedul Haq
Sangeet Prabhaya
Organiser: Chhayarat
Venue: Chhayarat
Sanskriti Bhavan
Date: May 30
Time: 6:30pm



Fund Raising Concert

Venue: Gulshan Youth
Club Ground, Gulshan-2
Artists and Bands:
Warfaze, Artcell, Aurthohin,
Black, Yaatri, Fuad and
Powersurge
Date: May 30
Time: 3:30pm onwards



Film Screening

To raise fund for Poet
Samudra Gupta
Organiser: Students of
Institute of Fine Arts, DU
Venue: Auditorium, IFA
Date: May 27-June 4
May 29
2:30pm Kungfu Hustle;
4:30pm Pink Panther;
7pm Children of Heaven



Film Screening

Organiser: Children's Film
Society
Venue: Goethe-Institut
Bangladesh, H 10, R 9,
Dhanmondi
Film: Goopi Bagha Phire
Elo
May 29 at 5pm



Hues of Bangladesh in Berlin



Bangladeshi cultural activists at the procession in Berlin

SHARAF AHMED

A grand rally was held in Berlin, Germany on May 11, where thousands of people of different origin, religion and background came together. The rally, titled 'Karneval Der Kulturen', started from the Hermannplatz, Krueberg and went up to York Strauss, five kilometers away.

Around four thousand cultural activists from 80 countries joined the procession, highlighting cultures from all over the world. Representatives were dressed in traditional attire; it was a sea of colours. Traditional music of

different countries added diversity to the procession. Special attractions were 'samba dance' by the Brazilians; 'flamenco dance' by the Spanish; and Bangladeshi participants rhythmically marching with Runa's Laila's rendition of the familiar folk song *Allah megh de*. Bangladeshi women -- in red and green -- paraded the streets, carrying *kula*. They were accompanied by men who wore *lungi*, *gamchha* and *mathal* (strawhat).

Participants from different countries presented their traditional music. Bangladeshi participants went with the theme

'nobanno utshab' (harvest celebration). Members of the Bangladesh Cultural Forum made comprehensive arrangements for the festival. The Bangladeshi team was highlighted on several local TV channels that covered the event.

Around 1.3 million people took to the streets of Berlin on the occasion of this festival. Thousands of Bangladeshis residing outside Berlin also came to join the celebrations.

The 'Karneval Der Kulturen' is held every year in spring. Bangladesh first participated in this festival in 2000.

Exhibiting in India with panache

FAYZA HAQ

Maksudul Ahsan has had several shows of his painting recently in Indian cities. The first one was at Dharmal Art Gallery in New Delhi. This was an all India show and Maksud was the only artist from Bangladesh. This art outlet celebrates its 70th birthday this October and he will participate in this too.

Here he had figurative work in acrylic along with charcoal drawing with the subject of an angry bull. "Here I had a good response as also in Ahmedabad in a gallery

owned by Dhanvi Jain. I dealt with Indian traditional figures dealing with female figures and their costumes which went down well with the public. The Rajasthan painting had a camel in the backdrop while Bangladesh had banana trees and rivers at the back of a woman in a traditional white sari with a red border. I do abstract side by side with figurative work but it is the figurative that attracts me most. Wherever I go I'm looking at faces and figures and these come first to my mind when I paint. It is human joys and sorrows that I enjoy delineating most," says Maqsub.

In the bull series, that he did sitting in India, he wished to bring out the energy and strength of the animal. He also represented the aggressive qualities of mankind in the animal portrayal. Arrogance and anger prevails throughout the world, Maksud feels.

In a series he depicts people mourning with Gandhi's image looming in the backdrop. There are people mourning the death of a person, while people from various religions mourn for him. Figures such as that of Gandhi or Mother Teresa stand for humanity amidst turmoil and insecurity. He has a 'Black' series too where everything is dark to portray the

troublesome period that we are engulfed in.

Maksud also participated in a print camp in Kolkata with artists like Prokash Karmakar and Nirmulendu Das. He also dealt with clients in Mumbai galleries.

In August is his solo show at Shilpangan. In October, at the Kolkata Academy of Fine Arts and the Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner's Office Gallery. He will also be the curator for joint show of Bangladesh and India shortly. In November he has his solo show in New Delhi. In January 2008 will be his exhibit in Ahmedabad followed by an exhibit in Mumbai.



Artworks by Maksudul Ahsan



Nazrul Academy observes National Poet's birth anniversary

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of Kazi Nazrul Islam's 109th birth anniversary, Nazrul Academy organised a musical soiree on May 27 at the academy.

Noted Nazrul artistes Fatema Tuz Zohra and Maidul Islam performed at the event.

The programme started at 8:15 pm. First to perform was Fatema Tuz Zohra. The artiste opened the programme with the song *Tumi loho probhu amar shongshar-e bhaat*.

Next she performed the song *Bishwa dulaali nabi nandini*, a song dedicated to Hadrat Fatima, the daughter of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Next the artiste performed the song *Afkey jey rajaditray kal shey bhikkha chaye*, followed by *Srijon chhondhey anondhey nacho notoraj* and more.

Maidul Islam performed *Meghey meghey andho*, *Shoponey esheychhilo mridubhushini*, *Jaha kichhu momo*, *shokhi shajije rakho* and more.

The artistes were accompanied by artiste Prodip Ghosh (from Kolkata) on *tabla*, Sunil Sarkar on keyboard and Maniruzzaman on flute.

This year Nazrul Academy organised an eight-day long special programme (from May 22-28) to mark the National Poet's birth anniversary.

The programme included musical soirees, discussions and felicitations of Nazrul artistes.

On May 25 the Academy organised an award giving ceremony and discussion at the Shahid Zia Auditorium, National Museum. At the programme the Academy awarded Nazrul Padak 2008 to A H Saidur Rahman (posthumous) and Dr Askar Ibne Shaikh. Nazrul Academy Shanbardonha Crest 2008 went to Nazrul artistes Ferdous Ara and Josef Kamol Rodriguez, for their contribution in promoting Nazrul Sangeet. Nazrul Academy Shommanona 2008 were conferred to Lutifur Rahman Sarkar and artiste Jannat Ara (posthumous).

On May 26 a musical soiree featuring Nazrul Sangeet was held at Shahid Zia Auditorium. The event featured performances by leading and upcoming Nazrul artistes.

Yesterday the Academy organised a musical evening featuring performances by veteran Nazrul artiste Khalid Hossain; Khil Khil Kazi, granddaughter of Kazi Nazrul Islam; and Salauddin Ahmed.



Indigenous artistes greet Vatican envoy with music and dance

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinaipur

The indigenous people of Dinaipur gave a warm reception to the Vatican City ambassador to Bangladesh and envoy of the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI in Dinaipur recently. A cultural programme organised on the occasion included Santal dances, songs and recitation.

The Christian community along with people from all walks of life organised several programmes at Dinaipur Christian Mission at Kashba to felicitate Joseph Marino.

The cultural programme was organised by the indigenous people at the same venue. The indigenous artistes performed dances and songs. Attired in their traditional costumes, they held bows and arrows along with waterspout decorated with ripened sheaf of paddy. Members of the Santal, Orao and Marma communities participated at the programme.

Earlier, the envoy attended a meeting at the Dinaipur Christian Mission, presided over by Bishop Mojesh Costa.

At the meeting, the envoy expressed his contentment over the religious harmony in the district as well in the country and expressed his hope that such harmony would continue. He

also thanked all the people for the memorable grand reception they had accorded him.

In the course of his visit Marino also inaugurated several projects initiated by the Dinaipur Mission in the different upazilas of the district.



Members of the indigenous community greeted the Vatican envoy with music and dance

Sharon Stone's "karma" views spark anger in China

Sharon Stone has sparked criticism in China after claiming the recent earthquake could have been the result of bad "karma".

The US actress, speaking at the Cannes Film Festival, linked the recent disaster to Beijing's policy on Tibet.

She said: "I thought, 'Is that karma?' When you are not nice, bad things happen to you."

But Stone added she "cried" after the Tibetan Foundation asked her to help quake victims.

Stone, 50, said: "They wanted to go and be helpful, and that made me cry."

"It was a big lesson to me that sometimes you have to learn to put your head down and be of service even to people who aren't nice to you."

Stone made her comments last week in a brief interview with a Hong Kong film crew.

"I'm not happy about the way the Chinese are treating the Tibetans because I don't think anyone should be unkind to anyone else," Stone said, according to footage widely available on the internet.

"And then all this earthquake and all this stuff

happened, and I thought, is that karma?"

Ng See-Yuen, founder of the UME Cineplex



chain and the chairman of the Federation of Hong Kong Filmmakers, called Stone's comments "inappropriate".

According to a story in trade magazine *Hollywood Reporter*, he vowed not to show Stone's films in his theatres.

UME has branches in Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing, Hangzhou and Guangzhou, China's biggest urban movie markets.

Stone's comments also created a swell of anger on the internet, including at least one Chinese website devoted solely to disparaging her comments.

The *Beijing Times* also reported that some major Beijing department stores had removed advertisements for cosmetic and couture giant Christian Dior, which feature Stone's image.

The earthquake struck south-west China on 12 May, leaving 68,109 people dead, with another 19,851 still missing.

Source: BBC

Nazrul birth anniversary celebration in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Kushtia Sangskritik Karmi Samanay Parishad (KSKSP) organised the programme at the grounds of Bijoy Ullash of Kushtia municipality.

Presided over by KSKSP advocate Samim-ul-Hasan, the programme was addressed among others, by deputy commissioner (DC) Kushtia Neupur Ahmed; Dr Abul Ahsan

Choudhury, professor, Department of Bangla, Kushtia Islamic University; Dr Jamir uddin Sarkar of Bangla Department, Kushtia Government College; Mosleh Uddin Ahmed, superintendent of police Kushtia; Maniruzzaman, organiser of Kushtia Shishu Academy; Saiful Hasan Milon, district cultural officer and journalist Rahman Risvy.

Different organisations also staged cultural events, including Nazrul's songs and poems.

Women's meet and cultural programme in Netrakona

JAHANGIR ALAM, Netrakona

Highlighting women's rights, a convention and a cultural programme were held at the Mahua Auditorium in Netrakona town recently.

The programme was jointly organised by Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha and Institute for Environment and Development (IED).

Dr. Piar Mohammad, additional district magistrate, Netrakona inaugurated the programme. President of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, Professor Jatun Sarkar and Executive Director of

Nari Pragati Sangha, Rokeya Kabir were present as special guests.

Zubaida Akhter Khatun, convenor of the Udjapon Parishad, presided over the programme. Among others, women leaders Sina Rani Katrio, Piara Akhter Khatun, Rita Dutta, Jharna Akhter, Kohinoor Akhter and Bijoya Chakrabarti attended the programme.

The speakers called upon the government to take necessary steps to ensure women's rights.

After the discussion, a cultural programme was held at the venue. Artistes of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi performed at the programme.



Artistes sing at the programme

PHOTO: STAR