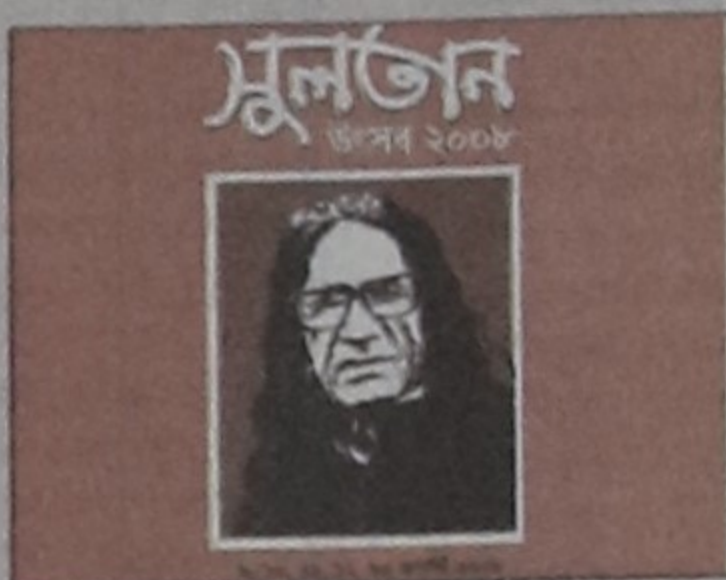


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Sultan Utsab '08
84th birth anniversary of artist S.M. Sultan
Organiser: S.M. Sultan
Jannotsab Uddaporn Parshad and S.M. Sultan Shishu O
Karukola Foundation
Venue: Sultan Mancha and Shishuchang, Narail
Date: August 9-13
Time: 6pm onwards everyday
Sponsored by Banglalink



Solo Sculpture Exhibition

Title: My loving friends & The Nature
Artists: Ferdousy Priyabhashini
Venue: DOTS Contemporary Arts Centre, 191/A, Tejgaon I/A
Date: August 1-13
Time: 11am-8pm (2pm-8pm on Friday)



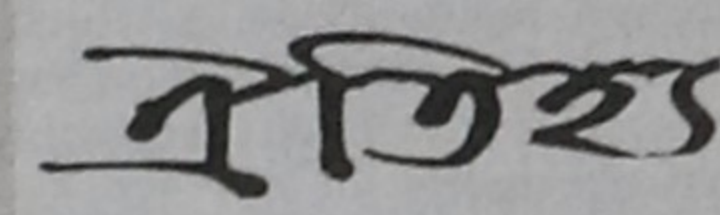
Group Art Exhibition

Featuring works of 19 renowned artists
Title: Mukti
Venue: Liberation War Museum
Date: August 9-25
Time: 10am-7pm



Oitijhya Boi Utsab

Celebrating 9th anniversary of the publication house Oitijhya
Venue: Central Public Library, Shahbagh, Dhaka
Date: August 10-25
Time: 10am-8pm



Observing 100th anniversary of Khudiram's execution

Film on the legendary hero on the cards

NADIA SARWAT

After the deaths of her two children, a mother sold her third son at a price of three handfuls of *khud* (fragments of rice grains) to her elder daughter, Aparupa Devi, believing this ritual might save the boy. The child survived the apparent threat, but at the age of 18, nothing could stop him from sacrificing his life for the sake of his motherland. This is the story of Khudiram, the immortal hero from *Agnijug*.

August 11 marked the 100th anniversary of Khudiram's execution by the British Raj. To mark this occasion, a memorial programme was held on August 10 at BIAM Auditorium. The event was organised by Ummey films, which is set to make a film on the brave hero titled *Khudiram*.

Adviser to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Rasheda K. Chowdhury, the chief guest at the event, formally announced the launch of the film. Eminent theatre personality Nasiruddin Yousuff presided over the programme while Dr. Anisuzzaman, noted litterateur Selina Hossain, filmmaker Soovash Dutt, Professor Dr. Israfil Shahin (Chairman, Department of Theatre and Music, Dhaka University) were present as special guests.

Habibur Rahman, producer, Ummey Films welcomed the audience. Director Nurul Alam Mili shared his thoughts on the film. Recitor Laila Afroz moved the audience with her rendition of the poem *Bongeshwar* (written by Manish Ghatak). *Bongeshwar* was another young revolutionist who died at the hands of the British police after almost two and half decades of Khudiram's death.

"After Khudiram was executed by hanging, *The Empire*, a contemporary leading English newspaper wrote 'He was cheerful and smiling' at the moment of his death. What an undying spirit the young man possessed! The spiritual power of a nation lies on how it treats its history. An initiative which is taken to present the story of Khudiram to this generation is a great task in this regard," Selina Hossain said in her speech.

Dr. Anisuzzaman Said, "Khudiram was the product of a certain period that we know as the



A portrait of Khudiram

Agnijug. Similar characters are Prafulla Chaki, Binoy-Badal-Dinesh, Shurjo Sen, Preetilata, Kalpana Dutt who vowed to confront British imperialism. While there is controversy whether their way was right or wrong, their idealism and valour are unquestionable. Even Rabindranath Tagore, who did not support their philosophy, said that no one could deny the honour they deserve. Indeed, when we honour these heroes, we make a homage to their patriotism and self-sacrificing courage."

Noted singers Mita Haque, Sharmin Sathi Islam and recitor Hassan Arif performed at the event. The classic, *Ekbaar bidaye de maa ghurey ashi* (made famous by Lata Mangeshkar) featuring the trial and sacrifice of Khudiram, was also played at the event.

Int'l Day of the World's Indigenous People

Cultural programme in Khagrachhari

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Speakers at a discussion on Saturday said that the indigenous people are facing discrimination both from outsiders and administration. They are losing their lands. The government should intervene and ensure the rights of the indigenous communities, expressed the speakers.

The discussion was organised by 'Adhivasi Dibosh Uddaporn Committee' at Tribal Cultural Institute under Sadar upazila in Khagrachhari district to mark the International Day of the World's Indigenous People.

Chairperson of the NGO, 'Pajuriko', Nomita Chakma presided over the discussion while Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC) Chairman Monindra Lal Tripura was present as chief guest.

Speakers agreed that the indigenous people need a peaceful environment like everyone else in the country. But some settlers have been unlawfully grabbing their lands and disrupting the indige-

nous lifestyle.

Mentioning the extinction of many cultural events, the speakers said, as there is no bold initiative from the government and the local indigenous leaders, many age-old traditions and heritage are on the verge of being lost into oblivion.

Speakers also suggested that the government should establish cultural institutes for indigenous communities. They also urged to appoint indigenous language teachers in each primary school to ensure education in mother tongue.

They also urged the media to highlight indigenous culture and heritage.

Among others, Member Secretary of 'Adhivasi Dibosh Uddaporn Committee', Beki Tripura; KHDC Councillor Sanu Mong Marma; YWCA District Chief Pratima Roaza and Organising Secretary of Tripura Kalyan Sangsad, Bibishe Tripura spoke at the programme.

After the discussion, a cultural programme was held at the venue.

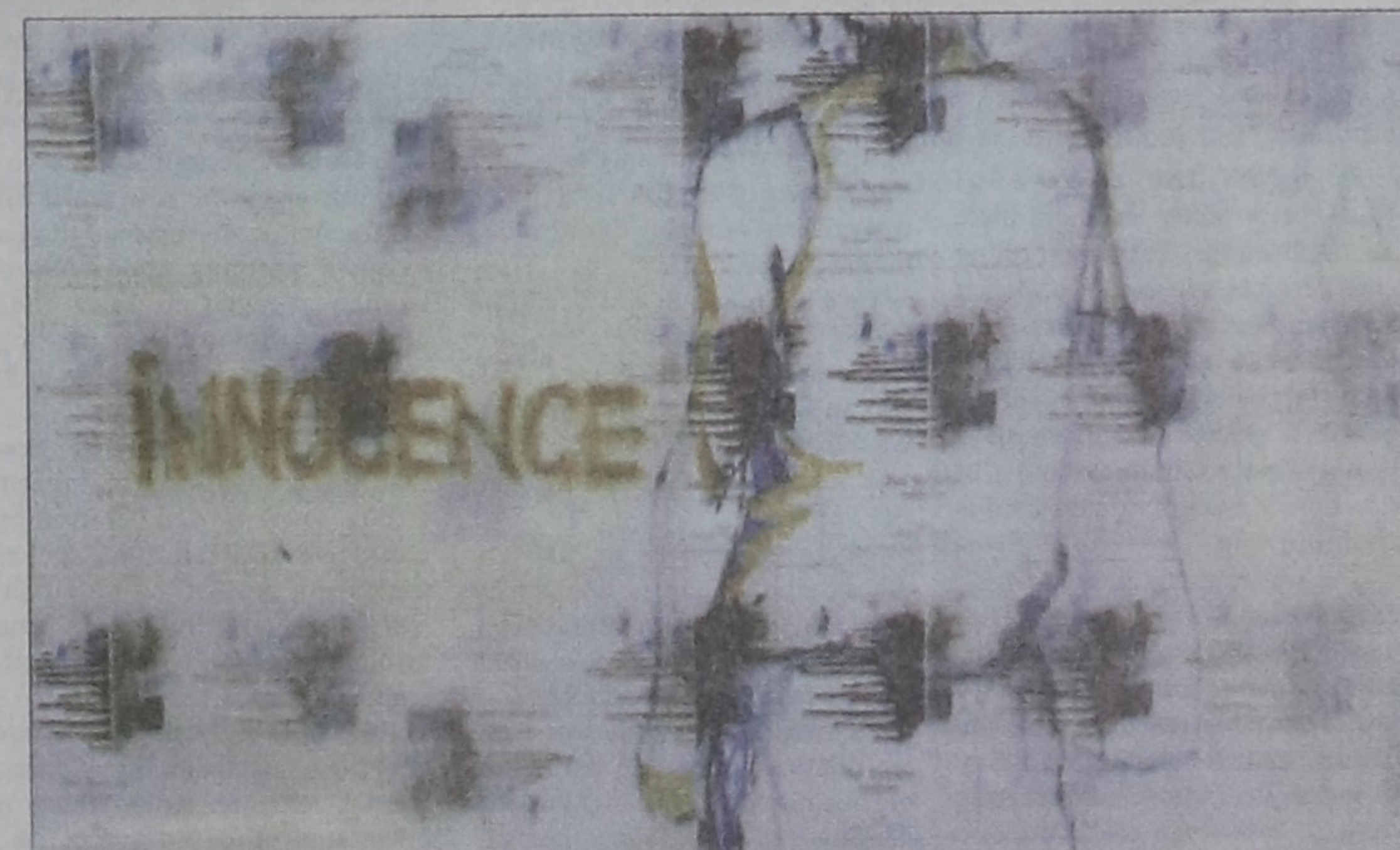


Adivasi performers dance at the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

Contemporary Artist 4

A joint exhibition by young Bangladeshi and Japanese artists



Artworks by Yuri Ikematsu and Shulekha Chowdhury

ERSHAD KAMOL

An art exhibition featuring works by young Bangladeshi and Japanese artists titled Contemporary Artist 4 was held recently at Zainul Gallery 2. Organised by G.S. Kabir Arts and Graphics, five works of each of the four participating artist were on display at the weeklong exhibition.

Participating artists were Shulekha Chowdhury and Yasmin Jahan Nupur from Bangladesh

and Sanae Watanabe and Yuri Ikematsu from Japan.

Shulekha Chowdhury has done huge experimentation on forms, compositions and themes. Featuring the contemporary social upheaval, the expressionist artist has expressed intense emotion.

The 'power of uniform' and 'romance' are the themes of her paintings. Each of Shulekha's canvases are figurative, however, none of the figures has any 'eye'. She has created many eyes, which look at the figures. Through

vibrant colour compositions and delicate lines, Shulekha has different views on the power of uniform and romance.

On the other hand, Yasmin Jahan Nupur has addressed feminism in her five canvases. Common feature of her figurative canvases is the use of fairies and flowers. Some paintings feature fairies covering women figures, in modern attires, with long veils. The most attractive work by Nupur on display was a canvas featuring broken winged

fairies on red canvas, which portrays the chaotic situation that arises from oppression on woman.

Both of the Japanese impressionistic artists-- Sanae Watanabe and Yuri Ikematsu-- with visible brush strokes, open composition, emphasise on light in its changing qualities have portrayed ordinary subject matter, the inclusion of movement as a crucial element of human perception and experience and unusual visual angles.

At the Zainul Gallery 11, solo exhibition by Japanese young artist Yoko Kudo was held simultaneously. This exhibition was also organised by G.S. Kabir Arts and Graphics.

USP of Yoko Kudo's works is the use of vibrant colour mixing. Like the contemporary Japanese artists, Kudo has portrayed the natural flora and fauna, especially the colours that the nature takes at different time, through different layers of colours.

Nine-day theatre festival begins at Natmandal



A scene from Asheshkritya, staged after the press conference.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Department of Theatre and Music of University of Dhaka (DU) has organised a nine-day theatre festival at Natmandal, DU campus, which begins today. Students of the department will direct and perform the plays, informed Dr. Israfil Shaheen, chairman of the department, at a press conference at Natmandal on August 10.

Plays to be staged at the festival are: *Asheshkritya*, *Chakkhuran*, *Biparjoy*, *Shabal Mehe*, *Srimatir*

Swamir Kachhey Srimaner Mithya Bhashon, *The Zoo Story*, *The Room*, *Nagmandol*, *Offending the Audience*, *Bhaluk*, *Pratibad*, *Irsha*, *Metamorphosis* and *Chhayaheen Kaya*.

A total of 14 plays will be staged at festival. Besides the world classics, plays written by the students will also be staged. Theatre performances are directed by BA (hons) final year students. It is a part of their academic curriculum. Set, light, costumes and music are designed by the third year students.

dents.

Eminent poet Al Mahmud was present at the press conference. Appreciating the current theatre trend in Bangladesh, Al Mahmud said, "Theatre has made a remarkable achievement in Bangladesh. I believe that there will be a revolution in Bangladesh, which will gain momentum through theatre."

The press conference was followed by staging of *Asheshkritya*, written and directed by Shahman Moishan.

"Tropic Thunder" boycott in the works

A coalition of disabilities groups is expected to call for a boycott of the film "Tropic Thunder" because of what the groups consider the movie's open ridicule of the intellectually disabled.

The film, a movie-industry spoof directed by Ben Stiller, is set for release on Wednesday by Paramount Pictures and its DreamWorks unit.

"Not only might it happen, it will happen," Timothy P. Shriver, chairman of the Special Olympics, said of the expected push for a boycott.

A particular sore point has been the film's repeated use of the term "retard" in referring to a character, Simple Jack, who is played by Ben Stiller in a subplot about an actor who chases an Oscar by portraying a mindless dolt.

Shriver said that he had also begun to ask members of Congress for a resolution condemning what he called the movie's "hate speech" and calling for stronger federal support of the intellectually disabled.

"The most disappointing thing, the most incredible thing, is that nobody caught it," said Shriver, who, as a co-producer of the DreamWorks film "Amistad," is no stranger to the studio. He spoke of what he described as the studio's and the filmmakers' blatant disregard for the disabled even as they stepped carefully around other potentially offensive references, notably in a story line that has Robert Downey Jr. playing a white actor who changes his skin colour to play a black soldier.

In a statement on Sunday, Chip Sullivan, a DreamWorks spokesman, said the movie was "an R-rated comedy that satirises Hollywood and its excesses and makes its point by featuring inappropriate and over-the-top characters in ridiculous situations." Sullivan, in the statement, added that the film was not meant to disparage or harm people with disabilities and that DreamWorks expected to work closely with disability groups in the future. But, he said,

"No changes or cuts to the film will be made."

Formal complaints about the content of films are not uncommon, but well-coordinated boycotts are fairly rare. The groups involved said that they represented millions of members and associates. Perhaps the most striking use of the tactic involved "The Last Temptation of Christ," released in 1988. Religious groups that considered that movie's depiction of Jesus blasphemous called for a boycott of companies owned by MCA, whose Universal unit made the film.

An ad-hoc coalition of more than a dozen disabilities groups -- including the Arc of the United States, the National Down Syndrome Congress, the American Association of People With Disabilities and others -- laid the groundwork for public protests.

"Tropic Thunder" is likely to be the last movie released by DreamWorks before its top executives -- Steven Spielberg, David

Geffen and Snider -- formally announce their plans to become aligned with a new company to be financed by Reliance Big Entertainment of India. The three will continue to be involved with at least a dozen films at Paramount

but are expected gradually to shift their energies to the new enterprise, which will probably distribute its movies through another studio.

Source: The New York Times



A scene from "Tropic Thunder"