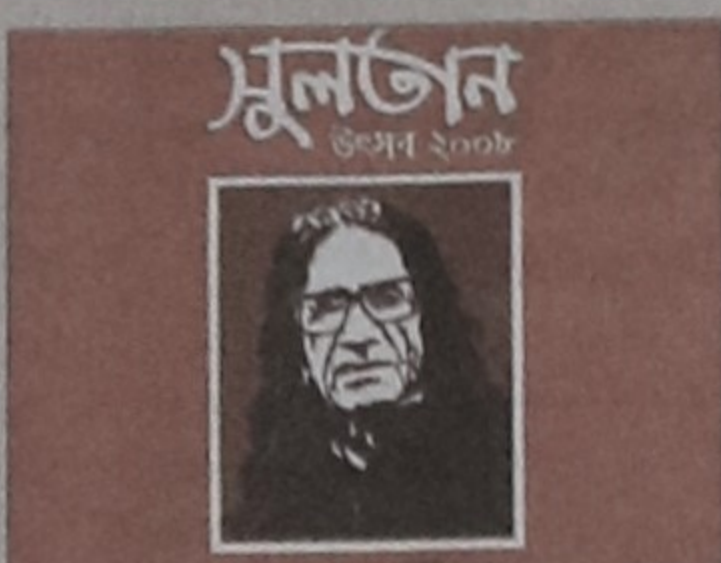


## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Sultan Utsab '08**  
84th birth anniversary of artist S.M. Sultan  
Organiser: S.M. Sultan  
Jannotsab Uddjon Parshad and S.M. Sultan Shishu O Karukola Foundation  
Venue: Sultan Mancha and Shishu Chargo, Narail  
Date: August 9-13  
Time: 5pm 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)



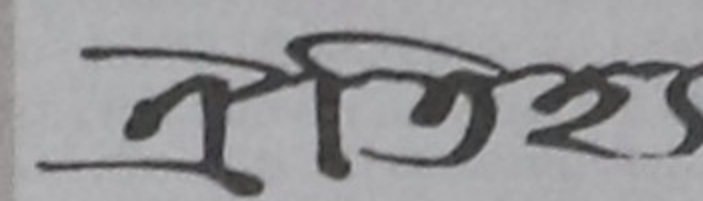
## Group Art Exhibition

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



## Sultan's birth anniversary observed



Boat race on the Chitra River on Sultan's birth anniversary.

PHOTO STAR

A CORRESPONDENT, Narail

The 84th birth anniversary of master artist S.M. Sultan was observed here with much enthusiasm. 'Sultan Janmo Joyanti Uddjon Parshad', under the supervision of Sultan Foundation, organised a day-long programme to mark the occasion. The programmes included a procession, art competition, boat race, discussion and prize distribution ceremony. Apart from these, Banglalink has organised a five-day-long programme from August 9 to 13 to observe the occasion.

The district administration, Sultan Foundation and different social and cultural organisations

laid wreaths at Sultan's mazar in the morning on August 10. Later, a procession went through the major roads of the town led by the Deputy Commissioner.

An art competition was held at 'Shishu Swargo'. Around 100 children took part in the competition. In the afternoon, a boat race was held on the Chitra River. The race started from 'Bandhaghat', near DC office and ended at Chitra Bridge. Hundreds of people on the both sides of the river cheered on as 20 boats made their way through.

In the afternoon, a discussion was held at 'Shishu Swargo'. Divisional Commissioner Md Yunusur Rahman was the chief guest while Deputy Commissioner Md

Qayyum Sardar presided over the meeting. Among others, Superintendent of Police Kamrul Hasan; Professor Munshi Hafizur Rahman; Professor Ashok Sheel; Sharif Atiar Rahman and artist Bimanesh Biswas spoke on the occasion.

Speakers expressed the view that S.M. Sultan was a "son and an artist of the soil". His paintings represent men and women of the working class. He is extra ordinary in the sense that his works stand out for their uniqueness. Speakers also emphasised on the preservation of the artist's works by both government and non-government initiatives. Finally the chief guest distributed prizes among the winners of the art competition and boat race.

## Swapnodal's anniversary celebration

To celebrate its seventh anniversary, theatre troupe Swapnodal arranged a two-day programme titled "Swapnodal-Natyak Lok Natyo Ayojon '08". The programme was held at the National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on August 10 and 11, says a press release. Eminent theatre personality Ramendu Majumder, president of International Theatre Institute, inaugurated the programme.

On the first day, theatre troupe Natyalok from Sylhet staged *Meraj Fakir Ma*. Written by Abudullah Al Mamun, *Meraj Fakir Ma* was directed by Mahub Chowdhury. On the second day (August 11), Swapnodal staged its production *Dakghar* -- an adaptation of Rabindranath Tagore's play. Zahid Ripon was the director of the play.

M. Hamid, chairman of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, was present as the chief guest at the closing ceremony. Swapnodal was formed on August 10, 2001. So far, the troupe has staged six productions. Its seventh production titled *Spartacus* is in the pipeline. Based on Howard Fast's novel, *Spartacus* is written by eminent Indian playwright Badal Sarkar. Zahid Ripon is the director of the play.



A scene from Swapnodal's production *Dakghar*.

## "Megher Koley Rode" Generating awareness on HIV/AIDS

ERSHAD KAMOL

In her latest film, *Megher Koley Rode*, director Nargis Akter has followed the 'formula' of 'mainstream cinema' and has dealt with a contemporary global issue. Done in conventional 'Dhaliwood style', the film features dances, playbacks and fights in a decent manner, and addresses the wrong perceptions of HIV/AIDS. For the most part, the cast and crew of the film includes are also from the mainstream movie industry.

*Megher Koley Rode* is full of drama and action. USP of the film is proportionate acting by mainstream actors such as Riaz, Poppy, Ahmed Sharif, Diti and Kabori. Even the debutant Tony Dias performed well. Director Nargis Akter deserves plaudits for managing her actors to perform realistically.

Nargis Akter's story and screenplay, especially the dialogue diction, have been aptly done. Two Bangladeshi students -- Rodela (Poppy) and Nijhum (Tony Dias) -- studying at a Malaysian University face a problem regarding accommodation, as the Malaysians deny to rent apartments/ houses to an unmarried couple.

Dramatically they meet a Bangladeshi expatriate (Diti), who is a psychiatrist by profession. She solves the problem. A triangular love story is introduced when Uday (Riaz), after completing his Bar at Law degree from UK, comes to meet his best friend Nijhum in

Malaysia.

Riaz in the character of a flirtatious, fun loving, young chap has performed spontaneously throughout the cinema.

Poppy's performance in the multidimensional character of Rodela is worth mentioning. Perhaps the audience has never seen

Nijhum and Rodela decide to go back to Bangladesh and marry. On the wedding night when the bride is waiting for the groom, he does not come suspecting Rodela is HIV positive, as his relative seeing the picture of Rodela's parents identifies them as aids victims who died when Rodela was born.

Nijhum's parents create pressure on their son to divorce Rodela on the following day of their wedding. The incident leads the cinema to a lengthy court scene, which sometimes appeared monotonous.

For a change Ahmed Sharif, who usually plays negative characters in mainstream films, is seen delivering a credible performance. As per the formula, Uday comes from London to



Clockwise (from top-left) Poppy, Tony Dias and Riaz in *Megher Koley Rode*.

Poppy perform with such conviction, though she is a popular film actor and has won national awards in acting. Her portrayal of aesthetic sentiments as per the requirements of actions deserves plaudits.

Tony Dias also performed well in the role of an unsure, insecure individual who always goes by his parents' decisions and cannot even express his love for Rodela.

Realising Nijhum's deep love for Rodela, Uday decides to go back to London, though this is for the first time he has been in true love.

The triangular love story has been visualised in the intriguing locations of Malaysia.

A new drama begins when

defend Rodela.

Playing a gynaecologist, seasoned actor Kabori proves to the court that Rodela is not a HIV positive. If the mother is properly treated under the supervision of an expert doctor, a newborn does not necessarily carry the virus.

However, the film has a few flaws. Actions are not properly portrayed in many scenes such as the scene featuring Khurshiduzzaman Utpal (playing Riaz's maternal uncle in the film), meets his ex-fiance Diti after 12 years.

*Megher Koley Rode* is running for the second consecutive week at StarCineplex.

## Int'l Day of the World's Indigenous People observed across the country

Call to ensure the rights of adivasis

### Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A cultural programme was held at the local gymnasium recently. The programme marked the International Day of the World's Indigenous People.

Bangladesh Garo Chhatra Sangathan rendered the inaugural song followed by a dance. People representing indigenous communities from greater Mymensingh, Dhaka, Gazipur and Sunamganj took part in the show.

The show featured Manipuri, Garo and Moysashor dance (of the Hajong community) and Mandi songs. Suniti Sinha, Dilman, Bidhan Sinha, Ananya, Kuleshar Singh, Rajendra Singh, Ranjita Sinha and Thairabi Devi led their groups in the cultural show.

Earlier, a colourful proces-

sion was brought out in the district town. Adivasis in their traditional attire and carrying their conventional instruments took part in the procession. The procession paraded the thoroughfares of the town. Tribal Welfare Association, KARITAS, Bangladesh Garo Chhatra Sangathan jointly organised the programme.

A discussion was also held marking the day. Indigenous leaders said at the discussion that the government should take proper steps to protect the rights of the indigenous people living in the country. The discussion was held with ex-MP, Advocate Promode Mankin (also the Chairman of Tribal Welfare Association) in the chair. Chief of Mymensingh Catholic Dharma Pradesh, Bishop Paul Palen Kubi



addressed the discussion as chief guest.

Among others, Mayor of Mymensingh Municipality, Advocate Mahmud Al Noor Tareq; Principal of Birishiri

Primary Training Institute, Monindranath Marak; Advocate Hillol Rema; Pradip Stanley Gomez of KARITAS and Professor Zulfikar Rafiq spoke on the occasion.

### Sirajganj

GOLAM MOSTAFA JIBON, Sirajganj

Speakers at a discussion held on August 11 expressed the view that the indigenous communities in the country have often been overlooked.

They added that the adivasis are often deprived of their legal rights to their land, due to lack of proper education.

Therefore, all communities should come forward to educate and generate awareness among the indigenous people and help them realise their rights to vote and work, speakers said.

The discussion was arranged by the Sirajganj unit of 'Bangladesh Adivasi Forum' and was held at the Sirajganj University College auditorium, marking the International day of the World's Indigenous People (August 9). The Forum also brought out a procession in the town and arranged a cul-

tural programme on the occasion.

Babu Nirmal Kumar Mahato, president of 'Bangladesh Adivasi Forum', Sirajganj unit, presided over the discussion. Ashraf Ali, Deputy Commissioner of Sirajganj, was present as chief guest.

Among others, Police Superintendent Alamgir Rahman; Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Mozaffar Ahmed; Secretary, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, Sanjib Drong; Central Members of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum -- Dr. Gajendranath Mahato, Sushil Kumar Mahato, Babu Ashutosh Mahato and Sirajganj Lawyer Association President, Advocate Abdur Rahman attended the programme as special guests.

After the discussion, the chief guest inaugurated the cultural programme. Indigenous artistes performed songs and dances on the stage.



### Rajshahi



ABU KALAM RATAN, Rajshahi

Indigenous communities in Rajshahi observed the International Day of the World's Indigenous People last Saturday with demands of government interven-

tion to ensure their social and constitutional rights.

To observe the day, a procession, discussion and cultural programme including drama and traditional songs were held at the Rajshahi Shishu Academy Auditorium.

Earlier, hundreds of indigenous people from different villages in the Rajshahi area gathered at the auditorium, decked in their traditional attire, carrying musical instruments, bows and arrows.

Later, the procession went through the major streets of

Rajshahi city.

The programme was jointly organised by ASHRAI and Lahanti Akra Forum (an organisation working for the indigenous people in Rajshahi and adjacent areas).

At the discussion, indigenous leaders demanded assurance of democratic, social, economic and cultural rights of the indigenous people.

They also demanded trials of individuals responsible for atrocities on the indigenous people.

Bahadur Munda, president of Botoli unit of Lahanti Akra; indigenous leader Manbala; ASHRAI representatives Bangopal Sarder, Abdus Samad, Jahangir Alam and Sohrab Hossain spoke at the meeting.

Later, a cultural programme was held at the venue.

Artists performed a play featuring the struggles of the indigenous people.

### Netrakona



JAHANGIR ALAM, Netrakona

A discussion on "Economic and Social Rights of Indigenous People" and a cultural programme were held at Mahua Auditorium in Mukterpara area, Netrakona town on Monday. The event was jointly organised by local NGOs 'Rasimoni Kalyan Parishad' and ARBAN.

The discussion meeting was presided over by Mati Lal Hajong, president of Rasimoni Kalyan Parishad. Mizanur Rahman, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Netrakona was present as chief

guest.

Promod Mankin, ex-MP and indigenous leader; ASP Netrakona, Mohammad Ibrahim; adivasi leader and writer Subhash Jangsam; General Secretary of Rasimoni Kalyan Parishad, Swapan Hajong and adivasi leader Paltan Hajong also spoke at the programme.

Speakers at the discussion demanded the assurance of indigenous peoples' economic and social rights.

After discussion a cultural programme was held at the venue. Indigenous artistes performed their traditional dances and songs at the show.