

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

## Exhibition

Title: Aloy Kaloy Aanka  
Organiser: Photographic Forum, Prism  
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15a (new), Dhanmondi  
Date: August 15-21  
Time: 3pm-8pm



## Film Screening

Film: Chitra Nadir Pare  
Director: Tanvir Mokammel  
Venue: Bangladesh Film Centre, 160 (4th floor), Lake Circus, Kalabagan  
Date: August 15-16  
Time: 5pm, 7pm



## 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

বিত্তিহা

## Sukanto birth anniversary celebrated

Programme at DU campus

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Cultural organisation Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigosthi (central committee) arranged a programme at the 'Shonarjito Swadhinata' premises on Dhaka University campus on August 14 to celebrate the 82nd birth anniversary of poet Sukanto Bhattacharya. Members of different branches of Udichi as well as noted artists rendered songs, poems and performed dance at the programme.

A discussion was held prior to the cultural programme. Professor Niranjan Adhikari, Mahmud Selim, general secretary of Udichi Central Committee and Jamshed Anwar, general secretary of Udichi City Unit spoke on Sukanto's life and works.

Professor Adhikari said, "We should delve more into Sukanto's poetry to learn his views on the society."

Professor Kazi Madina, president of Udichi City Unit, presided over the discussion. She said, "Sukanto's poetry was inspirational during the Liberation War. *Shabash Bangladesh*, *abak prithibi takiye roy* and many more poems boosted the morale of the Freedom Fighters."

The cultural programme started with a solo performance of *Hey surjo* rendered by Mahbubul Haider Mohon. Members of Udichi Pallabi unit rendered two



Members of Udichi Pallabi Unit perform at the programme.

songs -- *Abak prithibi* and *Bidroha charidikey*.

Naila Tarannum recited a poem of Sukanto. Members of the dance organisation, Nrittam performed a group dance. Among other artists and organisations, Shamim Al Mamun, Sheikh Alawal, Nihar Ranjan Hawladar, Udichi Kalyanpur and Udichi Lalbag units performed at the programme.

Sukanto Bhattacharya was born in 1926 in Calcutta (Kolkata). He was involved in student movements and leftist political activities.

The prodigy used his words against the fascist aggression and communal riots. Among his outstanding works are *Chharpatro*, *Purbabhash*, *Mithey Katha*, *Abhijan*, *Ghum Nei*, *Hartal* and *Giriguchcha*.

His complete writings were anthologised in *Sukanto Samagra* and published (posthumously) from both West and East Bengal.

Sukanto's poems, which describe the sufferings of the common people and their struggle for existence, look forward to an exploitation-free society. The poet died of tuberculosis in Calcutta in 1947.

## Dhaka University Theatre Festival

## Celebrating life and denouncing evil through theatre

NADIA SARWAT

Through the plays staged at the Dhaka University Theatre festival 2008, students are demonstrating their profound understanding of the medium as an instrument both to point a finger to the vices of the society and celebrate human relationships. With the staging of the plays *Bhaluk* and *Biporjoy*, the festival reached its third day on August 14.

*Bhaluk* is a comedy with a message that recognises the power of the eternal relationship between a man and a woman to win over all the odds of life. Director Mahfuza Khan did justice in treating the play translated by Sirajur Rahman from Anton Chekov's *The Bear*. The storyline of the one-act play deals with an upper class, beautiful and young widow who tries to extend her mourning to the extent that it becomes a fake ritual that simply cannot go with her youthful vivaciousness. However, the ritual collapses as an ill-tempered, unmarried man enters the scenario.

With a set designed by Afsana Siddiqui, actors Nusrat Farhana Lisa; Faridul Islam Fardin and Mostafa Amin seemed to win the hearts of the audience with witty dialogues in the play.

*Biporjoy* -- a translation of Samuel Beckett's *Catastrophe* -- by National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, came as an acid test to the nerve of the audiences who

seek good old-fashioned entertainment from theatre. Rehnuma Hossain, director of the play, seemed to takes the protest Beckett shows against dictatorship in the play through his use of absurdity and grotesque even further. Without being directly political, the play obviously relays a political message through a symbolic representation of the humiliated humanity in the hands of a dictator.

In the play, the dictator is a director of a play within a play, who, supported by his assistant, does whatever he wants with the protagonist. Jahangir Kabir Palash (the director), Fahmida Sultana Tanji (assistant) and Farzana Kabir (the protagonist) seemed at ease in their roles. Farzana Kabir's endurance, both as the character and a real-life actor, simply proves her dedication to theatre. Rehnuma has used multimedia to show some shocking footages of violence taking place all over the world -- ranging from torture in Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq to the familiar image of Nur Hossain of Bangladesh. The audience appreciated the effort with a round of applause.

"To me, the play is very relevant to the present global situation where we are all under some kind of dictatorship. It is in our family structure, our society, and our state, everywhere. We all are like the powerless protagonist in the play," Rehnuma said.



Nusrat Farhan Lisa (R) and Faridul Islam Fardin in the play *Bhaluk*.

Chairman of the department, Dr. Israfil Shaheen said, "The sensitivity, sensibility and concern to the social reality as reflected

through the play really satisfied me. The young director shows the courage to deal with this theme with great maturity."

## Bangladeshi filmmaker Shabnam Ferdousi participates at documentary festival in Germany

Bangladeshi documentary "... And We Cross the Same Road", directed by Shabnam Ferdousi and produced by Impress Telefilm Ltd, was screened at the 4th Globians Documentary Film Festival 2008 in Potsdam, Germany on August 12, according to a press release.

Only five films were selected from Asia among 150 films from 40 countries and Ferdousi was the only Bangladeshi filmmaker invited to the festival to present her film. The film portrays a number of street beggars in Dhaka and thereby explores the less known circle of exploitation of the poorest among the poor in the city. The film was highly appreciated at the festival.

Two other films by Ferdousi, "In Quest of Life" (produced by Step Towards Development) about the photographer Masuma Pia and "Spring of desire" on the *hijra* (intersex) community of Savar, were also shown at a special screening on



Shabnam Ferdousi (left-front row) along with other participants at the 4th Globians Documentary Film Festival.

August 11 in Berlin.

Ferdousi has made eight documentaries so far. Her latest film "Bhashajoyita" (produced by Step

Towards Development) is on six women who were on the forefront of the Language Movement in 1952. The film had its premiere in

Dhaka last February and was admired for the intriguing portraits of the Language Movement veterans.

## Int'l Day of the World's Indigenous People celebrated in Rangamati

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

Different local non-government organisations (NGOs) of Rangamati observed the International Day of the World's Indigenous People with different programmes.

The day was observed in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and across the globe simultaneously by the indigenous people with the theme "Indigenous People's Economic and Social Rights."

On the occasion, indigenous people from far-flung areas of Rangamati gathered at the premises of Hill District Council and held a discussion meeting and cultural programme at the auditorium of Rangamati Tribal Culture Institute.

Civil society leader Nirmolendu Tripura spoke at the meeting and



Artists of Lusai community perform at the programme.

inaugurated a procession as chief guest. Ripon Chakma, executive

director of RDA (Rangamati Development Association) chaired the programme.

Representative from Chakma, Santal, Marma, Gurkham, Tripura and Lusai communities participated at the programme.

The programme was jointly organised by the NGOs -- RDA, CDL, Hilehill, Jhum Chab Metta Foundation, Paha, HSDO, Pugobell, SWP and Shantir Alo.

Indigenous leaders expressed that they have been subjected to violation of human rights for long in CHT. They said that indigenous people were still being evicted from their own land at different hilly areas by the settlers.

Later, a cultural programme was held at the venue.

Artists of Chakma, Marma, Tangchangya and Lusai communities performed their traditional songs and dances at the programme.

## Delhi goes Mozart

KAVITA CHARANJI, New Delhi

At a recent concert, French tenor Jean Delescluse's 12 students from Delhi Opera Ensemble held New Delhi in thrall. Their repertoire was drawn from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's three symphonies: *Don Giovanni*, *The Magic Flute* and *Marriage of Figaro*.

Excerpts from all three operas gripped the attention of the audience. The first is originally in two acts. Though often classified

as comic, it is a unique blend of comic and tragic.

*The Magic Flute* opera celebrated its 100th performance in November 1792, a year after Mozart's death. Since its premiere, *The Magic Flute* has always been one of the most beloved works in the operatic repertoire, and is presently the 10th most frequently performed operas in North America.

Beginning with the moving *Don Giovanni*, the group went on to the other operas.

Delescluse is a passionate buff

information officer spoke at the programme.

In the course of the programme, Mohammad Moniruzzaman read out the speech of United Nations General Secretary Ban Ki-Moon. A video addressing HIV/AIDS, poverty, malnutrition and social injustice was screened. The theme of the programme was "Youth society and climate change."

Kazi Ali Reza said that the youth in our country should be

acquainted with the significance of International Youth Day and climate change. He answered the questions from the audience regarding United Nations and its activities. He added that poverty, crime, social injustice, illiteracy, unemployment and malnutrition can never be eradicated unless the reasons for these problems are first tackled. He emphasised on the need for sincerity and volunteerism among the youth.

"Nandankanon", an organisation of reciters, staged their production *Shesh Drishyer Porey* at Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium, Central Public Library on August 14. Directed by Rahmatullah Noman, this was the third show of the production. A total of 14 artistes of Nandankanon performed in the production.

