

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Exhibition

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



Installation and Photography Exhibition

Title: My Mobile Weighs a Ton
Artist: Naeem Mohammedi
Venue: Gallery Chitrah, H21, Rd 4, Dhanmondi, Dhaka
Date: August 21-31
Time: 10am-8pm



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

কবিতা

Wari-Bateshwar: In search of origins

Lecture at Chhayanat

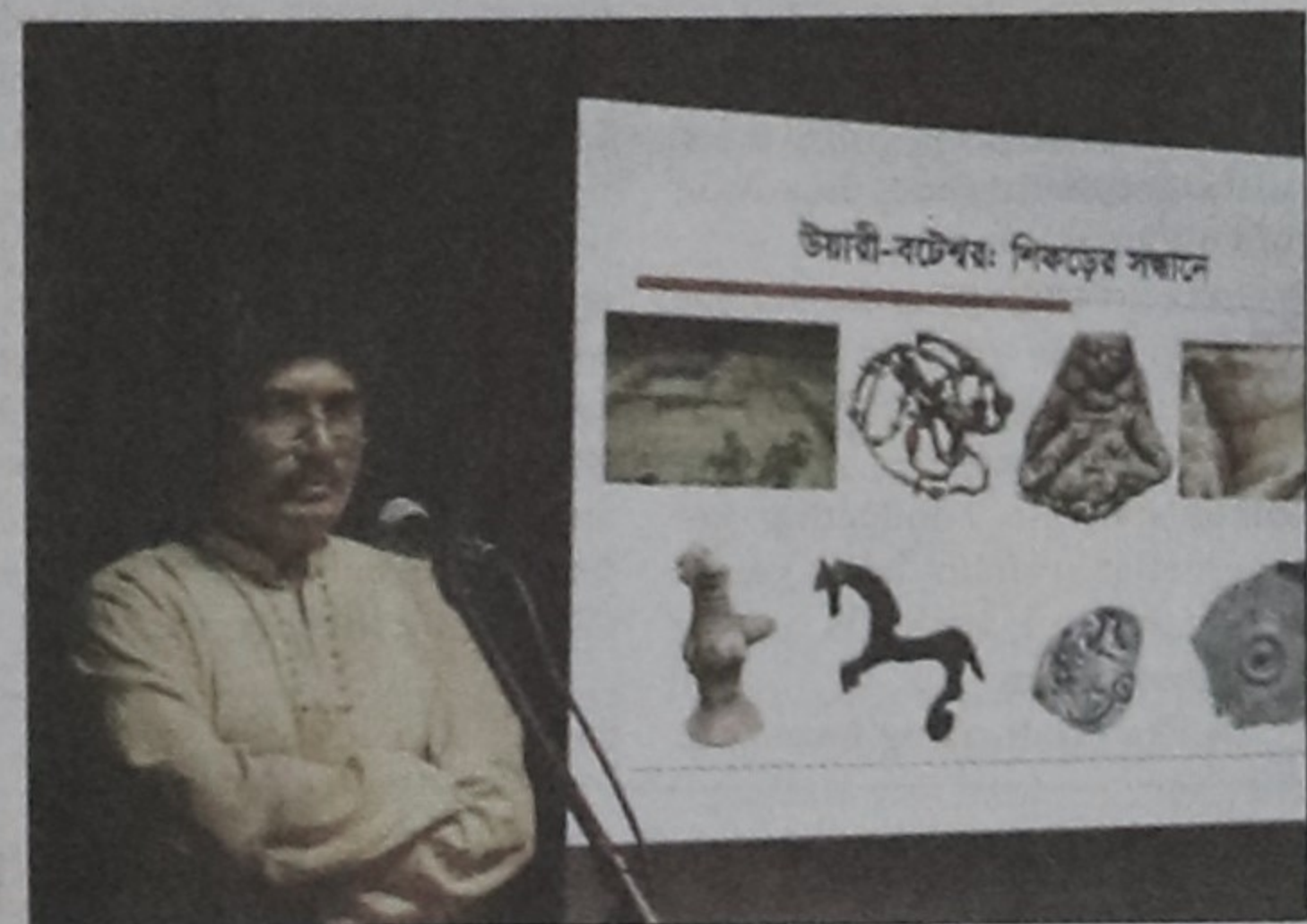


PHOTO COURTESY: SAYED ASIF MAHMUD

Professor Shah Sufi Mustafizur Rahman speaks at Chhayanat.

NADIA SARWAT

The history of human race is about 24,000 years old, but it was not until 10,000 years back that humans started making settlements. As the pre-historic people mostly lived in stone-caves, it is commonly thought that there cannot possibly be any trace of humans from that period in Bangladesh. But archaeological excavation of the Wari-Bateshwar site in Narsingdi district indicates just the opposite. Wari-Bateshwar, two neighbouring sites on the Pleistocene flat surface of the eastern Madhupur tract proves the existence of an ancient fort-city (dating back to the year 450 BC) on the bank of the river Buriganga.

Chhayanat arranged a lecture on Wari-Bateshwar at the Chhayanat Sanskriti Bhaban on August 15. Professor Shah Sufi Mustafizur Rahman, Department of Archaeology, Jahangirnagar University, who is leading the excavation at the site since 2000, was the speaker at the event.

Dr. Sanjida Khatun, president of Chhayanat, welcomed the audience and introduced Professor Shah Sufi Mustafizur Rahman and his team. A one-minute silence was observed in honour of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The lecture was aided with an interesting slide show, which included maps and photographs of the site, artefacts, archaeological discoveries and different processes of excavation and survey.



FILE PHOTO

Excavation at Wari-Bateshwar.

Professor Rahman explained how the excavation began and how important the discovery is to our history. It is being speculated that Wari-Bateshwar is indeed "Sounagara", a centre of trade described by Ptolemy.

"The excavation owes a lot to the local schoolteacher Hanif Pathan who initially played a major role in generating public interest in the sites in 1930. Later, his son Habibullah Pathan, an amateur archaeologist, furthered the mission with his writings. But it wasn't until 2000 that any formal

excavation began at the sites. Several organisations including *The Daily Star* came forward to promote it, as the process is time-consuming, costly and difficult," said Professor Rahman.

"Traces of the civilisation we found at Wari-Bateshwar are astonishingly advanced. Instead of living in stone caves, here the people invented a system, which is known as 'pit-dwelling' -- an important discovery of the excavation. The system indicates to the Chalcolithic era. Instead of tools made of stones, a kind of fossil

wood was used. Artefacts, beads and household items made of clay and ceramic further ensure the authenticity of the excavation. We could not exactly trace the year of the artefacts but samples have been sent to the Institute of Archaeology, London University for "Carbon-14" test (a method to identify the time)," he added.

The lecture included descriptions of different perspectives of the excavation and its historical archaeological significance. A question-answer session followed the lecture.

Selim Al Deen's birth anniversary celebration begins today

ERSHAD KAMOL

Dhaka Theatre and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) have jointly organised a six-day elaborate programme to celebrate the 59th birth anniversary of eminent playwright-theoretician Selim Al Deen, which begins today. The celebration programme features theatre performances, exhibition, installations, documentary film screenings and seminars.

Selim Al Deen (1949-2008) -- a pioneer of neo-theatre movement in Bangladesh, a theoretician of drama, a scholar, an organiser and a professor of Department of Drama and Dramatics at Jahangirnagar University -- developed a 'new drama form' based on the narratives of traditional indigenous theatre.

The programme will begin this morning with paying tributes to the grave of Selim Al Deen at Jahangirnagar University campus.

In the evening, Rasheda K. Chowdhury, adviser to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, is expected to inaugurate the festival formally at the National Theatre Stage, BSA.

Awards in memory of Maqsood Saleheen, Bazlur Rashid and Fawzia Yasmin Shiblee will be announced at the inauguration ceremony.

Three of Al Deen's plays -- *Joiboti Konyar Mon*, *Prachya* and *Nimajon* -- will be staged by Dhaka Theatre. Moreover,



the troupe will stage *Binodini*, an adaptation based on the autobiography of legendary 19th century actor Binodini Dasi under the supervision of Selim Al Deen. Other attractions are two shows of Kolkata-based theatre troupe Swapnosan dhan's productions *Hargoj*, written by Selim Al Deen.

The birth anniversary programme also features screening of five documentaries on Selim Al Deen, directed by

five young directors. Moreover, in *Selim Al Deen Memorabilia*, photographs and posters featuring rare moments of the legendary dramatist will be on display.

The arrangement also includes four seminars. Title of the seminars are: *Selim Al Deen: Beknigato O Beknigato Chhariye*, *Prachya: Satya-r Khonje Natok*, *Duoitadwoitobadi Shilpatatua: Selim Al Deen O Joiboti Konyar Mon* and *Oitijyahabi Bangla Natyariti O Selim Al Deen*.

Snap: Nirob

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Model turned actor Nirob says he has had ample preparation for his "sudden" breakthrough into the world of media. At present Nirob is doing his Honours in Pharmacy at Asia Pacific University.

Date of birth: July 2
Sunsign: Cancer

Favourites:

Favourite Cologne: Hugo Boss
Favourite Food: Grilled chicken
Favourite Colour: Green
Favourite TV show: I really like watching TV commercials. The first ad of Banglalink Desh (featuring me and Tinni) is one of my favourites.

Good looks or intelligence?

Good looks, if the encounter doesn't go beyond formalities. Definitely intelligence if I am to know him or her more closely. Intelligence is very important for any individual, and if he/she is blessed with good looks too, then that's great!

Five must haves in Nirob's wardrobe:

- 1) Belts
- 2) Shoes
- 3) Watches
- 4) T-shirts
- 5) Bracelets

Five traits a model should have:

- 1) Sense of style
- 2) Education
- 3) Right expressions
- 4) Sincerity
- 5) Conviction in one's work

Grooming...

Nowadays, men are becoming more conscious about their looks and hence they take pains to be well-groomed. The problem I face due to frequent outdoor shooting, is hair damage. For this, I try to take extra care of my hair by using home-remedies.



Fitness mantra...

For a model, it is very important to stay fit. I have to work out regularly to stay in shape. It is essential to be fit and stay healthy.

Style is...

I personally believe style depends greatly on the situation, time and place one is in. I try to pick clothes keeping in mind the occasion and place I am going to. Nobel bhai and Emon are a few of my favourite models and I really look up to them. I also remember admiring film star Salman Shah a lot during his time.

Madonna turns 50

On August 16, 2008, the world had five decades of the Queen of Pop. And going by the way she's still kicking up those well-toned heels on stage, we can probably look forward to five decades more.

Here's a quick look at how Madonna changed the world.

Born in Michigan, USA, on August 16, 1958 (to a French Canadian mom and Italian American dad), Madonna Louise Ciccone Ritchie moved to New York as a teenager in pursuit of a career in modern dance.

She joined a couple of forgettable pop musical groups, before deciding to walk down a path of her own making. The result was a self-titled debut album that took her straight to the top, and kept her there for a very, very long time.

Considering she moved to New York with a mere \$35 in her pocket, it's easy to see why Madonna's rise to the top is so inspirational. It was allegedly the first time she took a plane, or even a taxicab. And yet, a few years after moving out of her hometown, she had a record deal with Sire Records by 1982.

With her second album, the unforgettable *Like A Virgin*, she conquered America. World domination would soon follow. *Like A Virgin* is now listed by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as one of the Definitive 200 Albums of All Time!

Once Madonna began, there was no stopping her. Hit albums seemed to pour out of her -- *True Blue* in 1986, *Who's That Girl* in 1987, *Like a Prayer* in 1989, *I'm Breathless* and *The Immaculate Collection* in 1990, *Erotica* in 1992...and on, and on.

How well have the albums done? Well enough to make



Madonna (right) with daughter Lourdes.

Madonna the best-selling female rock artist of the 20th century, according to the Recording Industry Association of America, and the second top-selling female artist in the US.

The Guinness book lists her as the world's most successful female recording artist of all time and the top-earning female singer in the world.

Then there's Madonna, the movie star. She has acted in 22 films so far, none of which have managed to be half as successful as her music. She did win a Golden Globe for her role in the 1996 film *Evita*, but that's about it.

Some of those films were so bad (*Dangerous Game* and *Swept Away* come to mind), they made

a lot of critics try and convince her to stick to music alone. In characteristic style, she continues to ignore them all.

Early this year, she directed her first film, *Filth and Wisdom* and produced, wrote *I Am Because We Are*, a documentary on problems faced by Malawians. This part of her story is clearly far from over.

Without Madonna, half the world's tabloids in the 1980s would have nothing to write about. Her work has always attracted controversy. She has managed to annoy religious leaders the world over, and doesn't look like she's about to stop doing so anytime soon.

In 2006, she was criticised for wearing fur. That same year, she travelled to Malawi to help build an orphanage, and adopted a boy named David Banda Mwale, a move that led to legal disputes. There's also her devotion to the Kabbalah, and the criticism that has attracted.

Madonna, however, doesn't seem to care.

She married actor Sean Penn in 1986 and divorced him three years later, after beginning a relationship with Warren Beatty. More movies followed, as did a basketball player, a rapper, and fitness trainer Carlos Leon who became the father of her daughter Lourdes Leon.

Madonna met English director Guy Ritchie in 1999 and bore his son Rocco a year later, after which they decided to marry. The press has speculated about the fate of the marriage lately, but Madonna and Guy insist their life as a couple is far from over.

Source: Internet

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