

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

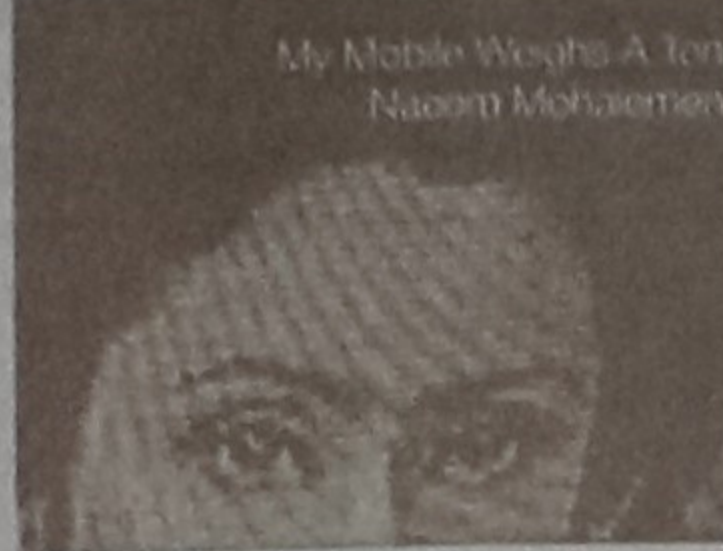
Exhibition

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



Installation and Photography Exhibition

Title: My Mobile Weighs a Ton
Artist: Naem Mohammedi
Venue: Gallery Chirak, H/21, R/4, Dhanmondi, Dhaka
Time: 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



Selim Al Deen Janmo Utsab

Organiser: Dhaka Theatre and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Theatre Stage, BSA
Date: August 18-23
Time: 7pm everyday August 20
Play: Pracya



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

Call to ensure rights, cultural heritage of indigenous people



PHOTO: STAR

Artistes of indigenous communities perform dance at the programme.

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

The two-daylong celebration of International Day of the World's Indigenous People ended in Dinajpur recently. The programme included roundtable discussion, festive procession, mela (fair), art competition and recitation of prose and poems with the call of establishing social and economic rights of indigenous people.

Veteran *adivasi* activist U Swe inaugurated the programme at Dinajpur Municipality Auditorium.

After the inauguration, a discussion was held at the auditorium. Eminent cultural personality Kamal Lohani attended the programme as chief guest. Md. Shafiqul Haque, Mayor of Dinajpur Municipality and Bulbul Mahalanbish, singer and a representative of UNDP were special guests.

Dr. Md. Ruhul Amin, Vice-Chancellor of Haji Mohammad

Danesh Science and Technology University, chaired the discussion. Zannat-e-Ferdousi, director (Advocacy), Research and Development Collective, delivered the welcome speech. Professor Ganesh Shoren and Biswanath Singh also spoke at the meeting.

Later, a colourful procession paraded different streets of Dinajpur town. Thousands including members of the indigenous communities from different districts including Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Joypurhat, Naogaon and Rajshahi joined and celebrated the programme.

Research and Development Collective (RDC) organised a roundtable discussion later that day at Dinajpur Press Club chaired by Chitta Ghosh, president of the press club.

The discussants demanded a united movement to protect the cultures and languages of the indigenous people. They also

called for constitutional rights for the welfare of *adivasis*.

Rakhi Mrong, secretary, Bangladesh Adivasi Adhikar Andolan, presented the keynote paper at the roundtable.

The second day of the festival included cultural programmes featuring artistes of indigenous communities including Manipuri, Santal and Orao. The programme was held at Dinajpur Municipality Auditorium.

The programme started with a traditional *Bizhu* dance of the indigenous communities of Chittagang Hill Tracts.

Bhajan, a 23-year-old *adivasi* Lalan singer from Gaibandha rendered two songs. Students of Dinajpur Santal Academy rendered patriotic songs in Santal language.

Artistes from CHT ended the programme with *Mahali* and *Thaladance*.

Selim Al Deen's birth anniversary celebration

Colourful programmes begin simultaneously at three venues

ERSHAD KAMOL

A six-day elaborate programme to celebrate the 59th birth anniversary of eminent playwright-theoretician Selim Al Deen began simultaneously in the presence of a remarkable number of Al Deen enthusiasts at three venues of BSA on August 18.

In this connection, the BSA premises were decorated colourfully with installation works, banners and festoons. Dhaka Theatre and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) have jointly organised the programme featuring theatre performances, exhibition, installations, documentary film screenings and seminars.

The first event of the day was the opening of a documentary screening session titled *Bioscope: R Andore*. Eminent film actor Kabori Sarwar was the chief guest at the event. Five documentaries featuring Selim Al Deen directed by five young directors will be displayed at the Studio Theatre (7th floor) of the National Theatre building.

The documentaries to be screened at the session are *El Je Ami*, *Selim Al Deen Drishye Adrishye Hridspandone*, *Adi Matar Barputra*, *Natya Bigyani Selim Al Deen* and *Dhrubotara Nakshikantha* directed by Esha Yousuf, Bishwa Roy, Raju Aleem, Mahbul Alam Taru and Mehedi Hasan Khan respectively.

On the opening day *El Je Ami*, directed by Esha Yousuf was screened. Reading his diary Al Deen remembered a few funny moments of his life in the documentary. It also featured his routine work as a Professor of the Department of Drama and Dramatics. Moreover, comments by Al Deen's close associates have been portrayed in the documentary.

The documentary is artistically rich with the wonderful flora and fauna of Jahangirnagar University adding more attraction to it. But, the identities should have been provided of people whose comments have been used, as many Al Deen associates are not popular



Clockwise (from top-left): Theatre activists celebrate Al Deen's birthday by releasing a *Phanush*; Rasheda K. Chowdhury (C), Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam (on her left) seen with theatre personalities at the formal opening of the programme; M. Sharful Alam and Nasiruddin Yousuff at the inaugural ceremony of the photography exhibition; Kabori Sarwar inaugurating the documentary screening session.

amongst the masses. Again the use of an English song in the soundtrack in *El Je Ami* could have been avoided, since dramatist Selim Al Deen has always rejected western influence on our distinctive culture.

A photography exhibition titled *Selim Al Deen Chariter Chitrabhashya* on Selim Al Deen at the lobby of National Art Gallery was inaugurated by M. Sharful Alam, secretary of Ministry of Cultural Affairs. Photographs taken by Al Deen's student Bareen Ghosh are on display. Moreover, lines from Selim Al Deen's plays are also on display.

In the evening, Rasheda K. Chowdhury, adviser to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, formally inaugurated the festival at the National Theatre Stage. Theatre personalities Syed Shamsul Haque and Ramendu Majumdar were special guests at the programme. Chief of Dhaka Theatre Nasiruddin Yousuff delivered welcome speech. Shafi Kamal,

director of the Department of Theatre and Film of BSA, was the other speaker at the programme. The discussion was presided over by Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam, director general of BSA.

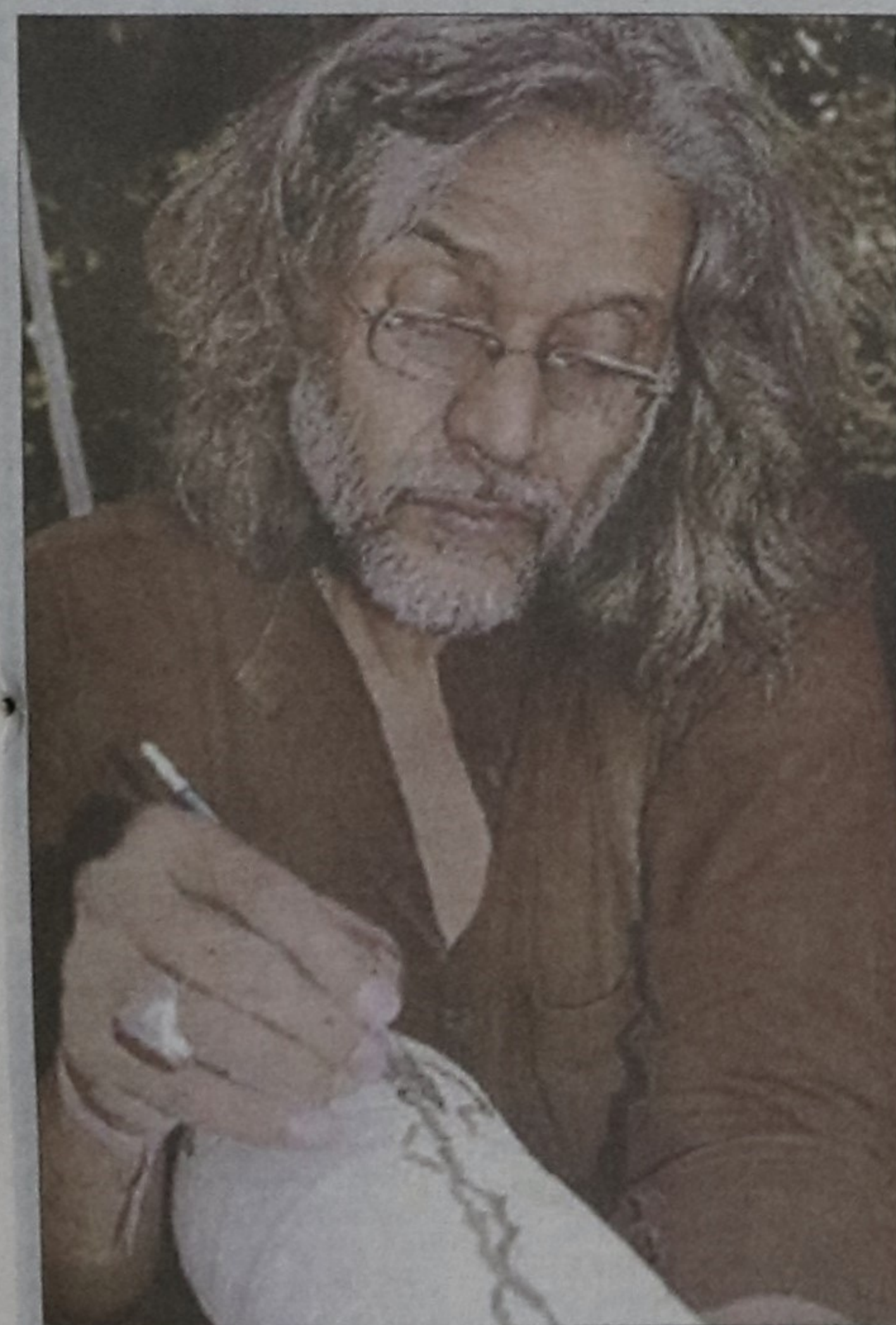
The discussion was followed by an award hand-over ceremony. Dhaka Theatre Sammanona 2004, 2006 and 2006 went to Indian theatre personalities Rudraprasad Sengupta, Swatilekha Sengupta and Arun Sen respectively.

Bazul Karim-Maqsood Seleheen Awards 2004, 2006 and 2008 went to Syed Shamsul Haque, Ataur Rahman and Mamunur Rashid respectively. And Fawzia Yasmin Shiblee Padak 2004, 2006, 2008 went to Nasirul Haque Khokon, Tamalika Karmakar and Aminur Rahman Mukul respectively.

Earlier in the morning the organisers paid tributes at the grave of Selim Al Deen at Jahangirnagar University campus.



Muzaffar Ali: A chance meeting



Muzaffar Ali

KAVITA CHARANJI, New Delhi

Guess who I bumped into today? None other than famous filmmaker, fashion designer,

poet, artist, music lover and social worker, Muzaffar Ali himself. At a function organised by The Richmond Fellowship Society, India,

Delhi branch, he talked about the challenges of dealing with mental health and the need for organisations such as the Society which is now setting up a new halfway home and day care centre, called Vishwas (trust) in Greater Noida (on the outskirts of Delhi).

The maker of brilliant films like *Gaman* (1978) and *Umrao Jaan* (1981), he explained his presence at the occasion. "I am here as I am related to Dr KM Khurana, the founder of the Society. I do believe that art can make a difference to this often marginalised group as they are sensitive people and they are easily touched."

The 64-year-old filmmaker has lost none of his creativity despite his years. In 2005, he was awarded the Padma Shri award. Now his son Shaad Ali too is an emerging film director.

What has he up his sleeve now? Two films, one on Sufi poet Jalauddin Rumi and the other on Empress Noorjahan. Why the latter? "Emperor Jahangir's wife was a great woman and wonderfully creative. She was a supporter of the arts and crafts and keenly involved in the welfare of children and women," he says.

Any message for filmmakers and other such creative people? "To make a film, a filmmaker has to be charged with passion," he concludes.

Britney Spears up for three MTV Video Music Awards



Britney Spears

Britney's back.

A year after she bombed onstage at the MTV Video Music Awards, Britney Spears snagged three nominations for this year's show, including the coveted Video of the Year prize.

Thanks to thousands of fans' votes, her video for "Piece of Me" will also vie for Best Female and Best Pop Video honours -- giving her 16 nominations over her career.

Such kudos were unimaginable a year ago, when Spears' attempt at a comeback during the awards show backfired miserably.

Her sloppy, lip-synched performance of "Gimme More" was universally panned and ushered in a year of lousy luck for the pop icon, including a failed child custody battle and a stint in rehab.

"Britney Spears made last year's MTV Video Music Awards a memorable one with her performance of 'Gimme More' -- albeit in ways she may not have intended," MTV

wrote on its Web site yesterday. "But on September 7, Spears will get a chance at VMA glory."

It's unclear whether the former pop princess will make an encore performance at the 25th annual show, giving her a chance at redemption.

The only confirmed performers are Jonas Brothers, Lil' Wayne and Kid Rock, but a spokeswoman for the network said earlier this week that Spears is in negotiations to take the stage again.

Spears is also showing that she has a sense of humour about her infamous performance.

Spears is always a ratings juggernaut on the programme. She seems determined to raise eyebrows whenever she appears on the show -- including in 2003, when she and Christina Aguilera exchanged kisses with Madonna while performing "Like a Virgin."

Source: Internet

Selim Al Deen's birth anniversary celebrated at JU

The 59th birth anniversary of playwright Professor Selim Al Deen was celebrated at Jahangirnagar University (JU) on August 18, according to a press release. To mark the day, a procession was brought out that started from the Department of Drama and Dramatics premises at 10 am.

Professor Mohammad Muniruzzaman, Vice-Chancellor of JU; acting Registrar Abu Bakar Siddique; theatre personalities Nasiruddin Yousuff, M. Hamid and

Jhuna Chowdhury; Dr. Aminul Islam, Chairman, Department of Drama and Dramatics; Professor Afsar Ahmed of Drama and Dramatics and others took part in the procession.

University authority and different cultural organisations paid tribute and placed wreaths at the grave of Al Deen, next to the central mosque.

A discussion and memorial programme was held at the seminar room of Central Auditorium at

around 11:30 am. At the programme, Syed Abdul Hye, treasurer of JU; media personality Atiqul Haque Chowdhury; Al Deen's widow Begumzadi Meherunnesa and Arun Sen from Kolkata discussed on the life and works of Al Deen. Professor Afsar Ahmed presided over the programme.

Selim Al Deen was a teacher of the Department of Drama and Dramatics, JU till his death.



PHOTO: STAR

Professor Mohammad Muniruzzaman, Vice-Chancellor of JU (C), Professor Afsar Ahmed and Begumzadi Meherunnesa along with others pay tribute at the resting place of Al Deen.