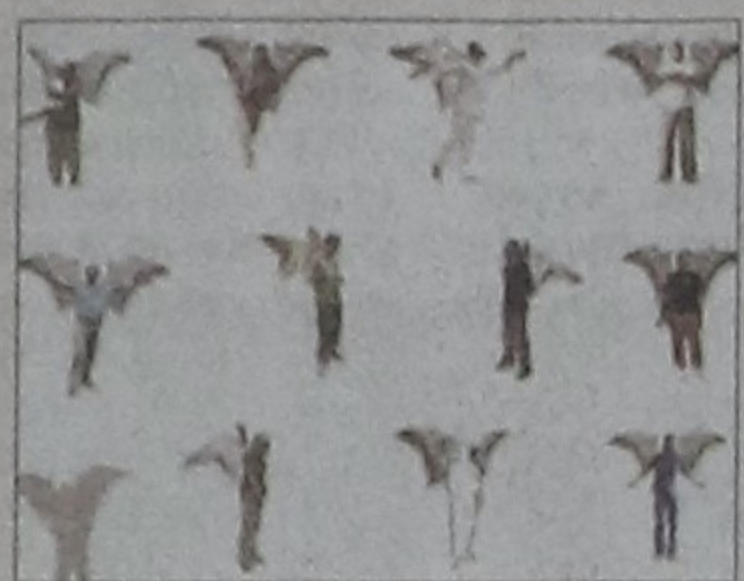


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Group Art Exhibition
by 19 artists from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
Title: Off the Beaten Path
Organiser: Brito Art Trust
Venues: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi; Galien Kaya, Uttara; Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi
Date: September 2-9
Time: 11am-5pm, BGFA 11am-8pm

**Jamdani Mela**

An exhibition of Jamdani Saris
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: September 3-7
Time: 3pm-8pm

**Solo Exhibition**

Title: The Intimate World of Colour
Artist: Hamiduzzaman Khan
Venue: Asiatic Society of Bangladesh Gallery of Fine Art, Nimtoli, Ramna
Date: August 23-September 9
Time: 12pm-8pm

**Memorial Programme**

Remembering Shaheed Altaf Mahmud
Organiser: Shaheed Altaf Mahmud Foundation
Venue: Liberation War Museum, Shagun Bagicha
Date: August 30
Time: 5:30pm



Rabirashmi turns ten

Three-day programme at Public Library

MAINUL HASSAN

To celebrate ten years of practicing and promoting Rabindra Sangeet, Cultural organisation Rabirashmi has arranged a three-daylong programme featuring music and poetry at Central Public Library, Shahbagh.

The cultural fest began on August 28 at Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium, Central Public Library. Founded in 1998, Rabirashmi has been working towards popularising Rabindra Sangeet. The slogan of this year's festival is "Gaaneey gaaney bondhon jaak tutey."

Veteran Tagore artiste and exponent Kalim Sharafi inaugurated the festival. This year's festival has been dedicated to the memory of recently deceased playwright-actor and director Abdullah Al Mamun. Among others, Tagore artistes Ajit Roy, Rezwana Chowdhury Bonna, Mohammad Sharful Alam (secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs) and Mahadev Ghosh (director of Rabirashmi) were present at the inauguration.

A one-minute-silence was observed in memory of Abdullah Al Mamun.

A brief felicitation ceremony was held. Rabirashmi honoured Rezwana Chowdhury Bonna for her contribution to Rabindra Sangeet. The artiste received Tk 10,000 and a crest. Mohammad Sharful Alam was present



Artistes of Rabirashmi perform at the programme.

as the chief guest and Ajit Roy was the special guest at the felicitation programme.

The cultural programme featured group renditions by artistes of Rabirashmi, including songs *Gogono ghono chhailo*, *Gram chhara oi ranga matir path* and *Pran chaye chokkhu na chay*.

The programme also included a solo

performance by Rezwana Chowdhury Bonna. The artiste sang *Amar hiyar majhey lukiye chhiley*.

Mohammad Sharful Alam rendered *Amar e path cholete amando*.

Solo performances by artistes of Rabirashmi followed. The first artiste to perform was Roquaiya Hasina. Ruquaiya sang *Mor pradeeperey*. Mir Mahiuddin Sohan performed *Hawa lagey gaaner*.

paley.

Other artistes who performed at the programme were Ashoke Saha (from Kushtia), Shahidul Hassan Khoka (Bogra), Sanjay Roy (Bagerhat), Sunil Ghosh (Barisal) and Chandra Kishore (Chittagong).

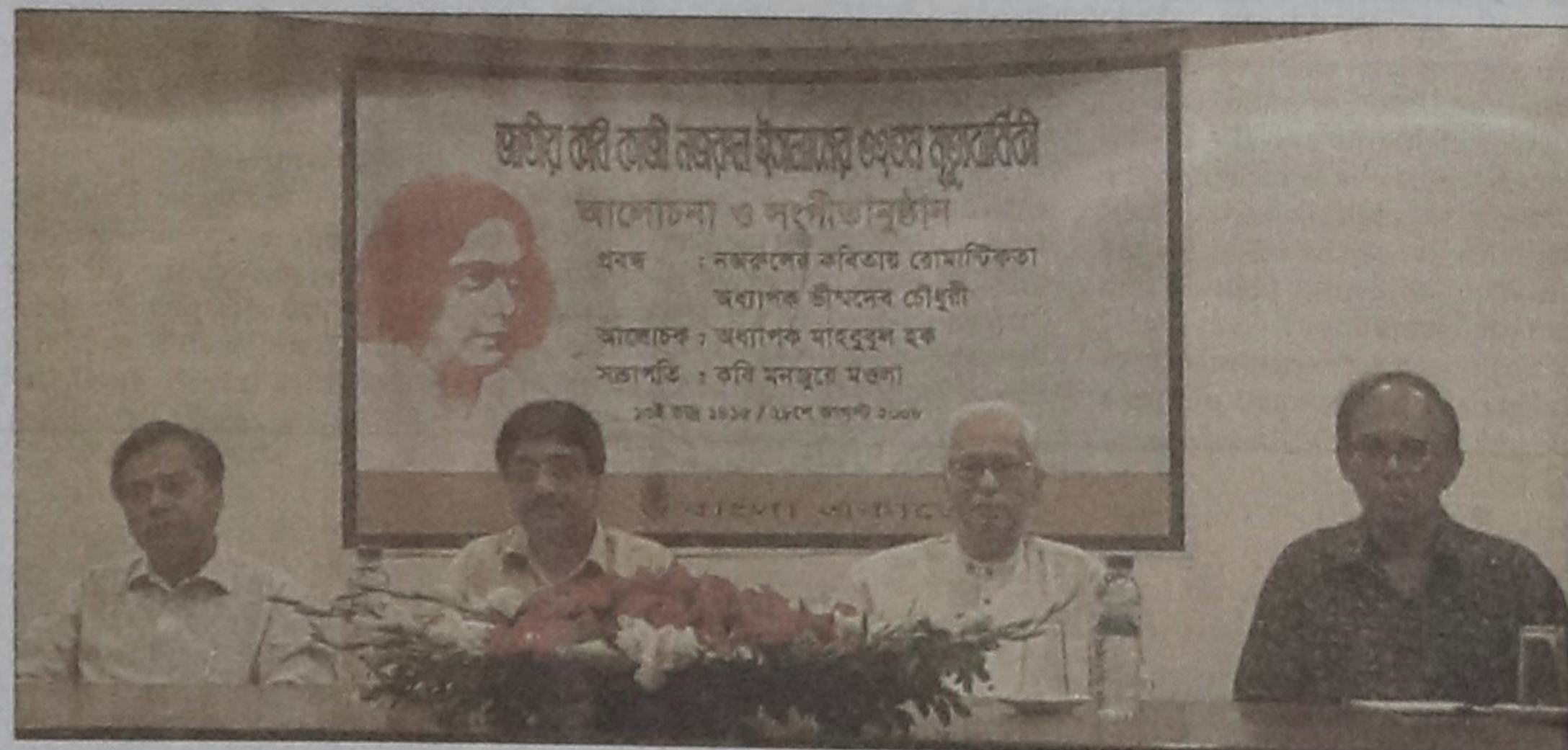
A total of 30 artistes of the organisation performed on the opening day. The programme ends today.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.



A scene from the documentary.

Professor Syed Mohammad Shahed (L), director general, Bangla Academy is seen with discussants at a seminar held on the 32nd death anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. Bangla Academy arranged the programme at its seminar room on August 28. At the seminar, Professor Bheemdev Chowdhury read out a keynote paper on the topic "Romanticism in Nazrul's Poetry". Professor Mahbubul Haque was the discussant on the topic, while poet Manzur-e-Mawla presided over the seminar. After the seminar a musical soiree featuring Nazrul Sangeet was held at the venue.



"Swapnobhumi" to be screened at SAARC Film Festival

Filmmaker Tanvir Mokammel's acclaimed documentary *Swapnobhumi* (The Promised Land) will be screened at the SAARC Film Festival '08, says a press release.

The festival will be held at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune from October 21 to 24 this year.

During the festival, Tanvir

Mokammel will also give a lecture at a seminar on the changing faces of cinema in the SAARC countries due to globalisation.

Swapnobhumi is a documentary on the woes of the Biharis (also referred to as "stranded Pakistanis") living in Bangladesh and their dream to find a better life.

Madonna vs. McCain

REUTERS, Los Angeles

Madonna has always revelled in controversy and with the recent launch of her concert tour, "Sticky & Sweet", the 50-year-old pop star has kicked up a new fuss by comparing John McCain to Adolf Hitler in a video.

The dust-up is the latest in a career of risky moves that have paid off handsomely for Madonna, whose tours and albums have long mixed music with politics, sex and religion. While other stars rose to fame in the 1980s then faded away, "Material Girl" Madonna has become a global star and even courted controversy to stay relevant to younger audiences.

"Madonna seems to be a brilliant business woman in the culture scene," said Robert Thompson, a professor of media and pop culture at Syracuse University.

"She's controlled her contro-

versy, so every time she's been in controversy it does her good not bad," he told Reuters.

As her world tour opened in Cardiff, Wales, over the weekend, Madonna showed a video montage juxtaposing images of Hitler with McCain, the Republican senator from Arizona running for

president against Democratic Sen. Barack Obama. The Democrats on Monday launched their nominating convention.

McCain's campaign blasted Madonna with a spokesman telling media organisations that the video was "outrageous, unacceptable and crudely divisive."

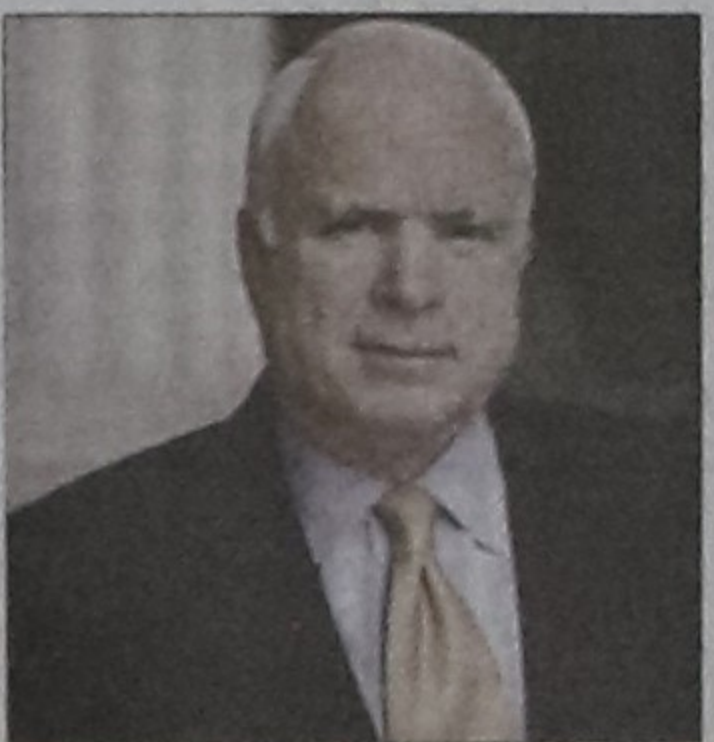
Abraham Foxman, national director for Jewish group The Anti-Defamation League also issued a statement calling it "outrageous to invoke Nazi imagery in the context of John McCain's candidacy."

Madonna had previously drawn the ire of the Vatican. Her 1989 song "Like A Prayer," with links between religion and eroticism, caused Pepsi-Cola to cancel a sponsorship deal.

While Thompson noted that Madonna has successfully boosted her career in the past with controversy, he added that celebrities should speak their minds if they want.

But David Horowitz, a conservative writer and activist, took a more dim view of Madonna's latest controversy.

"We're in a sad situation if we're turning to entertainers for political wisdom," he told Reuters.



John McCain



Madonna

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