

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Javed Jalil
Venue: Exhibition Hall, Russian Centre of Science and Culture, H 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi
Date: November 16-23
Time: 11am-7pm



Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Walking the Painted Pavé
Artist: Sunil Kumar
Venue: Alliance Française, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: Nov 21-Dec 4
Time: 9am-12pm and 5-8pm (Saturdays 5-8pm)



Experimental Theatre Festival

Organiser: Palakar
Venue: Palakar Studio, 133, Natak Swarni
Date: November 21-30
Time: 6:30pm everyday
Today: Dakghar (Palakar)



Punk Rock Concert

Organiser: Echoes Production House
Troupes: Nulltarf (Germany) and Black (Bangladesh)
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi
Date: November 24, Time: 6:30 pm



Good songs have sense of the literary — Shabnam Mushtari

CULTURE DESK

From the late 1960s Shabnam Mushtari has emerged as one of the major stars in Nazrul songs. Here are excerpts from a conversation with her.

Why is it important for an artiste to conceive of the true meaning of a song?

Any good song essentially contains a sense of the literary. It is most important for an artiste to comprehend the true meaning of a song, which is contained in its lyrics, without which the rendition becomes imperfect and flat.

The best compliment that you have received so far?

That I look very dignified, well turned up and have a melodious voice.

What's the worst thing that people say about you?

That I often flee from the scene when there is any controversial situation.

What don't you leave home without?

The inevitable traffic jam on the roads bores me out of my wits. So I have this new method of fighting boredom and making the drive more pleasant. I never forget to take the newspaper, my favourite collection of songs, which range from ghazals to oldie goldies.

When was the last time you felt insignificant?

Never.

Although you are known to maintain your cool, when was the last time you blew your top?

I feel strongly that our National poet is ill represented. When we talk of our cultural representation we should emphasise that which is our very own. Nazrul is a creative genius. We should proudly present the songs at all important occasions and also during our cultural tours abroad.

What do you never tire shopping for?

Magazines, perfume, artificial jewellery, shoes, groceries and whatnot.

Interesting fan mail

Once I received a fan mail --- where it was mentioned that he had taped my song *Lailee tomar eshechey phirna* on both sides of a cassette which he played throughout the day without fail.

Are you laid back?

I guess most artistes are. I enjoy meeting old friends, calling them over, arrange get-togethers and all this is after I finish my routine chores and of course anything that is related to my performance.

Why will your fans not forget you?

That is for them to say. However, deep inside I have a feeling that I have tried to satisfy their thirst by presenting the passionate songs of Nazrul with precision.

What is your opinion on the current



Shabnam Mushtari

trend of making music videos of Nazrul Sangeet?

The trend has both positive and negative aspects. Since the poet himself acted in cinema, I believe there shouldn't be any objection to music videos. However, preference should be given to the total impact of the composition---the lyrics, tune and emotion of the song, everything should be considered and not only in flashy outfits and in a westernised outlook.

Shabnam trains a few students under the Poet Talim Hossain Trust every year, although on an irregular basis. And she emphasises those aspects of Nazrul Sangeet, which, she believes, are 'lyric-based'.

Unlike many others, Shabnam is positive about the trend she has observed among the young artistes. "Not all the learners are extraordinary," she explains. "But some are talented, and that is more than enough."

"The purity of Nazrul Sangeet is much more authenticated now than before," she claims. "Many records produced during the lifetime of the poet himself have been collected. These have helped a lot in preparing the notations of Nazrul Sangeet properly."

Shabnam, however, regrets that this practice of purity has become rather Dhaka oriented. "Outside Dhaka, many are teaching wrong tunes completely unknowingly, because often they do not have access to the original tunes," she says. "Also, in West Bengal, Nazrul Sangeet is being sung in wrong tunes!" she complains. Shabnam, however, names Krishna Majumdar and Sushmita Mukherjee of West Bengal as true followers and practitioners of authentic Nazrul Sangeet.

Loko Natyadal's Shonai Madhab hits century

Innovative blend of Padabali Kirtan and Jatrapala

NADIA SARWAT

"Shonai Madhab", an illustrious presentation by Loko Natyadal, was staged on November 21 at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Based on the tragic love story of Shonai and Madhab, a well-known chronicle from Mymensingh Geetika, "Shonai Madhab" is an experimental blend of Padabali Kirtan and traditional Jatrapala. As it was the hundredth stage performance of the production, Loko Natyadal celebrated the event with great enthusiasm.

Shamsuzzaman Khan, eminent folk researcher, was the chief guest at the event and M Hamid, chairman, Bangladesh Group Theatre federation; Jhuna Chowdhury, secretary general of BGTF and Mohini Mohon Chakrobarti, advi-

sor of Loko Natyadal were present as special guests. All the cast and crew of "Shonai Madhab" along with the guests were honoured by the troupe at the event, which was presided over by Ali Iskandar Ahmed of Loko Natya Dal.

Termining the production as a "Padabali Jatra," director Eugene Gomez said, "One of the ancient theatrical performances, Padabali Kirtan moves forward by depicting the story through songs. With some other experimental features, we also included dances in 'Shonai Madhab'. To retain the original essence of Jatra pala, female characters are played here by male actors."

Mostofa Anwar Swapon was the music director of "Shonai Madhab". Composed by Dinendra Chowdhury and Mostofa Anwar Swapon, the music was composed



PHOTO: MUMIT M

Scenes from "Shonai Madhab."

by Avijit Choudhury effectively to maintain the mood of both Kirtan and Jatrapala. Shonai Madhab commences with two anonymous narrators singing the background story of Shonai, a village belle of tender age whose beauty can only be compared with the full moon. Through the exquisiteness of the dialect of Mymensingh, the audience is also informed that Shonai lost her father at an early age. Full of vivacity and dreams of a beautiful future, Shonai (Played by Kamrun Nur Chowdhury) enters the stage with her "Sakhi"s. Consequently she meets her love, Madhab (played by Aslam Shihir), a romantic youth who wins her heart and the two wait for a happy marriage. The amorous encounter between Shonai and Madhab through songs and dances are quite entertaining for the audience and this was also when the villain intrudes into the story. Bhabana, a

heinous, lustful yet influential man in the village is also attracted by Shonai's extraordinary beauty and sends his men to abduct the girl. Zahid Chowdhury is excellent in depicting the scoundrel with all his intolerance, rage and comical gestures. Failing to abduct Shonai, however, Bhabna imprisons Madhab just after the lovers get married. Hearing that Bhabna will only release Madhab when he gets Shonai in his grasp, Shonai bravely starts for Bhabna's house, with a bottle of poison tied to her attire.

Acclaimed both in the country and abroad, "Shonai Madhab" was first staged at the Mahila Samiti auditorium in 1993. It has been staged at several theatre festivals in different countries and in different places within the country. It was adjudged one of the best productions at the International Theatre Olympiad held in Delhi in 1993.

Sufia Kamal remembered in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The ninth death anniversary of poet Begum Sufia Kamal was celebrated in Pabna. Bangladesh Mohila Parishad, Pabna district unit committee observed the anniversary. A discussion was held at the organisation's office premises as part of the programme on November 20. The speakers focused on her involvement in women's issues and her life and work. The speakers also voiced their demand for fulfilling the dreams of the poet by building a progressive society free from fundamentalism and misplaced beliefs. The vice president of the organisation, Momotaz

Begum, chaired the programme. Secretary of the organisation advocate Kamrunnahr Joli, Koruna Nasrin, Shirin Akter, Jesmin Biswas, advocate Sultana Razia and Roushan Islam spoke on the occasion.

"Begum Sufia Kamal's writings were directed at making women conscious of their rights," said the speakers in the course of the programme. They also urged the necessity of building a forward-looking country, particularly when it came to women's issues. As the speakers said, "Poet Sufia Kamal dreamt of an equal status for women. But her dream is yet to be fulfilled."

Victory fair on Sauria freedom day

ZAHANGIR ALAM BISWAS, Manikganj

To keep today's generation in touch with the history of the Liberation War, Rouha Club recently organised a seven-day long Bijoy Mela (victory fair) at Rouha village under Sauria upazila in Manikganj. The objective was to observe Sauria freedom day, the day when Sauria upazila was freed from Pakistani occupation on November 21, 1971.

Sheikh Muhammad Maruf Hasan, police superintendent of Manikganj formally inaugurated the fair on Friday night. Veteran freedom fighter and president of the fair celebration committee, Elahi Buksh presided over the inaugural function of the fair, while freedom fighters Iqbal Hossain Khan, Golam Mohier Khan Shipor, Abdul Mojib Photo, SA Kabir Innah and fair celebration committee secretary Abdus

Sobhan addressed the gathering.

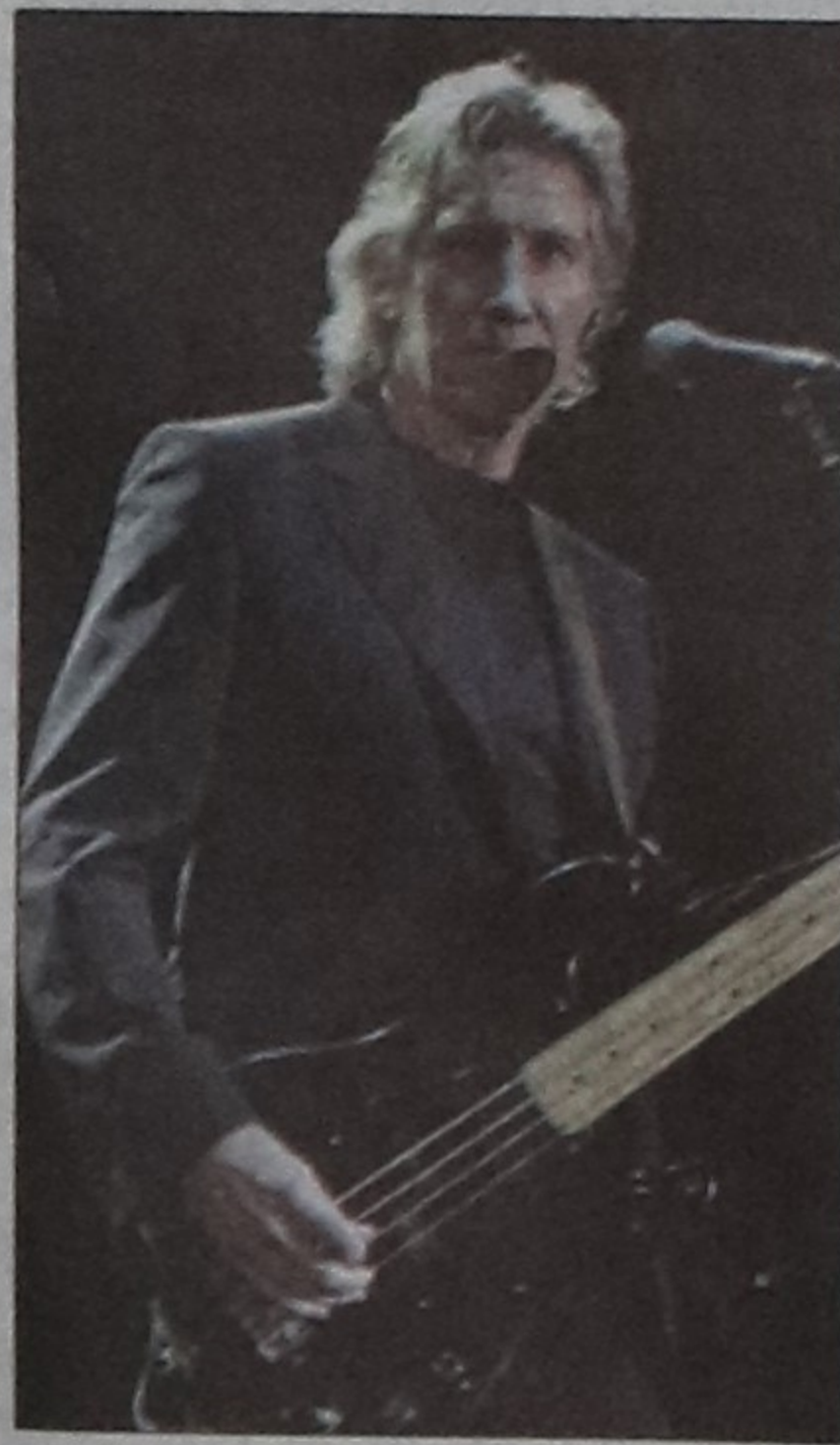
At the inaugural function, the veteran freedom fighters said that even though the country had been freed from the Pakistani occupation forces and their collaborators in 1971, the anti-liberation forces have managed to strengthen their position in the country, by making inroads in politics.

They called upon the people to be united against such elements.

The participants also observed a one-minute silence in memory of the martyrs of the Liberation War.

The highlights of the event are theatre and cultural functions at night through the seven days. The mela includes around 100 stalls with diverse culinary delights, toys, musical instruments, clothes and more. The fair opens at 10 am and continues through the night.

Live Earth India to feature Roger Waters and Bon Jovi



Roger Waters

Roger Waters and Will.i.am are among the artists scheduled to join Jon Bon Jovi and actor Amitabh Bachchan December 7 for Live Earth India, which will be broadcast on various TV outlets in India, Hong Kong and South East Asia. The concert, which will feature an appearance by former US Vice President Al Gore, also will be shown online at MSN.

Live Earth India will feature never-before-seen collaborations of western and Indian artists and a variety of musical genres from Indian hip-hop to American rock, according to a press release.

The line-up of international performers



Jon Bon Jovi

includes Anoushka Shankar, Abhishek Bachchan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Hrithik Roshan, Preity Zinta, Bipasha Basu, Shiamak Davar and Farhan Akhtar, among several others.

Net proceeds from the event will go to TERI's Light a Billion Lives, which aims at providing 200 million solar lanterns to rural households currently without electricity. Concert proceeds also will benefit Climate Project India's educational programmes and advocacy for renewable energy solutions in India.

Source: Internet



আমাদের সাহিত্যের বিকাশে তরুণ কবি ও তরুণ লেখকদের নিরন্তর সাধনার স্বীকৃতি লক্ষ্যে এবং তাদের সৃষ্টি উদ্যমকে আরো উৎসাহিত করার জন্যে ২০০৮ সালের এইচএসবিসি - কলি ও কলাম কবি ও লেখক পুরস্কার প্রবর্তন করছে। কবিতা ও সৃজনশীল সাহিত্য এই দুটি বিভাগে পুরস্কারের জন্য গ্রন্থ আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে। পুরস্কারের নগদ অর্থমূল্য এক লক্ষ টাকা করে। দুটি বিভাগের জন্য মোট অর্থমূল্য দুই লক্ষ টাকা।

কবিতা ও সৃজনশীল এবং মননশীল সাহিত্য - এ দুটি বিভাগের জন্য এই পুরস্কার তরুণ কবি ও তরুণ লেখকদের সৃষ্টিকর্মকে বেগবান করার লক্ষ্য নিয়েই প্রবর্তন করা হয়েছে।

২০০৭ সালের জুলাই থেকে ২০০৮ সালের জুন মাসের মধ্যে প্রকাশিত এবং ১৮ থেকে ৪০ বছর বয়সী বাংলাদেশী (প্রবাসে বসবাসরতও) কবি ও লেখকদের রচিত মৌলিক সাহিত্যকর্ম (কবিতা, কথাসাহিত্য, নাটক ও প্রবন্ধ) এই দুটি পুরস্কারের জন্য বিবেচিত হবে। পুরস্কারের জন্য উপস্থাপিত হয়নি এমন বই, অনুবাদকর্ম এবং পুরস্কারের যে-কোনো পর্যায়ের বাছাইয়ের সঙ্গে জড়িত ব্যক্তিদের গ্রন্থ পুরস্কারের জন্য বিবেচিত হবে না।

১৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৮ তারিখের মধ্যে কলি ও কলাম দপ্তরে (বেঙ্গল সেক্টর, প্লট ২, সিভিল এভিয়েশন, নিউ এয়ারপোর্ট রোড, বিলফেজ, ঢাকা ১২২৯) এই দুটি বিভাগের জন্য পাঁচ কপি বই জমা দিতে হবে। সেইসঙ্গে একটি ঘোষণা দিতে হবে যে, বইটি বাংলাদেশী লেখকের মৌলিক সাহিত্যকর্ম, লেখকের বয়স নির্ধারিত বয়সক্রমের মধ্যে এবং বইটি এই পুরস্কারের জন্য উপস্থাপন করা হচ্ছে।

২০০৯ সালের মার্চ মাসে একটি অনুষ্ঠানের মাধ্যমে পুরস্কার দুটি প্রদান করা হবে। পুরস্কারের বিষয়ে বিচারকমণ্ডলীর সিদ্ধান্ত হবে চূড়ান্ত।

যোগাযোগ: ০১৮১৯ ২৬৬৭৭২, ৮৯১৪০৫৬, mail@kaliokalam.com

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