

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Lecture
Organiser: Chhayanat
Venue: Chhayanat Sangskriti Bhaban
Date: December 19
Time: 7pm



Exhibition of Architecture
Title: Nature is...
Artiste: Rafiq Azam
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, R 279old, Dhanmondi.
Date: December 15-26
Time: 12pm-8pm



Theatre
Play: Ekattorer Khudiram
Troupe: Shomoy Nalyadal
Venue: Mahila Shamili Auditorium, Natak Swarani
Date: December 19
Time: 6:30pm



Nikita Mikhalkov Retrospective
Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society in association with RCSC
Venue: Auditorium, RCSC, H 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi
Date: December 22-24



Songs of Tagore in our freedom struggle

Chhayanat's Victory Day celebration



Artistes of Chhayanat perform patriotic Tagore songs at the programme.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Chhayanat celebrated Victory Day with Tagore songs that have been a source of inspiration during the Bengali nationalist struggle. The event titled "Bangalir Mukti Sangramey Rabindranath" featured 'Swadeshi' (patriotic) songs that Rabindranath composed after the Bengal Partition movement of 1905, which continues to inspire the Bangalees with its sense of power to fight against all odds. The event was held at the Ramesh Chandra Dutt Memorial Auditorium at Chhayanat Sanskriti Bhaban on December 16.

The programme commenced with a chorus rendition by the artistes of Chhayanat of the song "Aji Bangladesher hridoy hotey", a song that was composed soon after the declaration of the division of Bengal in 1905 by the British Raj, as a protest from the Nobel laureate, Namita Khan, from the recitation organisation Kanthasheelan provided background information and the relevance of the songs to the history of our liberation movement.

Satyam Kumar Debnath was next with the song "O amar desher mati." Nirjhar Choudhury sang "Je tomaey chharye chharuk".

Noted artiste Mita Haque presented "Amay bolona gahitey bolona" next. Saikat Mukherjee's rendition "Tor apone joney chharbey torey, ta bole bhabna kora cholbena", seemed to symbolise the determination of the Bengalis to claim their right at any cost.

The chronicle of the Liberation War continued through the songs such as "Deshey deshey bhrami," "Firey chal matir taney," "Jodi tor daak shuney keu na ashey", "Milechhi aj mayer dakey", "Buk bedhey tui danra dekhi," "Ebartor Mora gangey baan Esehchhey", "Sarthok janom Amar" and more. ATM Jahangir, Elora Ahmed Shukla, Azizur Rahman Tuhin, Senjuti Barua, Iffat Ara Dewan, Tanjina Parvin Tama, Nilufar Jahan presented the songs.

The programme was brought to a close by the choral renditions of "Ananda dhani jagao gogoney" and "Chal jai chal jai" and finally by the rendition of the National Anthem, "Amar Sonar Bangla", which was also composed in 1905.

Grand finale of Close Up 1 2008

Liza wins the much-coveted crown

MAINUL HASSAN

On December 17 the grand finale of "Close Up 1: Tomakei Khujchhey Bangladesh 2008" was held. Sania Sultana Liza from Mymensingh was crowned the new Close Up 1 champion at a dazzling award giving ceremony at Bangladesh-China Friendship Convention Centre.

Apurbo Sarkar Apu from Rajshahi was announced the first runner-up and Shaju Ahmed Sarkar became the second runner-up.

The finale was a bit dramatic -- the winner was selected based on a point system that included both marks given by the judges and public votes (through SMS). Liza got a total of 13,79,951 votes while Apu received 9,88,961 votes. When it came to scores from judges, Liza got 38 out of 50 while judges gave Apu 47 out of 50.

The event started at 8 pm, beginning with a rendition of a patriotic song "Maa eto keno asru du'chokhey" by Close Up 1 2008 finalists. The song was written and composed by Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul.

A performance by Close Up 1 2005 finalists -- Nolak, Beauty, Rajib, Sonia and others -- followed. Next was a performance by top contestants of 2008, who didn't make it to the finals but made an impression with their talents on the judges and the TV audience nationwide. Songs performed included "Shokhi amarey bolo na," "Amar bondhu bina," "Amar ghoreo jala bahiroe jala," "Karo apone hoitey parlina ontor" and other more.

This year the contest began in June and around 86,000 contestants were selected in the primary rounds from all over the country. From them 541 got the opportunity to take part in the main contest. At the third selection 115 were selected. From the 115, 42 were singled out. From 42 only the top 16 were chosen.

A highlight of the evening was renditions of Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra songs. Contestants performed "Shona shona shona," "Teer hara ei dheu-er shagor," "Amar desher matir gondhey," "Amar desh shob manusher," "Dhono dhanney pushpey bhora," "Durgam giri kantar moru" and others.

The Close Up 1 2006 finalists presented a group rendition of the patriotic song "Purbo digontey shurjo utechhey."

The final performances were staged by the four finalists. Apu performed "Aaj brishur diney ami tumi," Liza performed "Bhul korey jodi kokhono mon-e porey amay," Atik performed "Tor kopaley jodi keu na dey tip," and Shaju performed "Bhalobeshhey torey bondhu."

This year's contest was the third talent hunt organised by Closeup. The first Closeup 1 was held in 2003, as an initiative to provide a platform for young talents. The winner of the contest Liza, received Tk 10 lakh and a car. Apu received a check of Taka 5 lakh and Shaju received a check of Taka 3 lakh. The



"I can't believe it, am I really the winner?"



The awardees with the organisers and judges at the grand finale.

winners will also get a chance to perform at concerts in the US, Australia and in several countries in Europe.

The top four to top twelve received taka 1 lakh each. The top 12 contestants will also receive an additional taka 50,000 as scholarship for education in music.

Marking Victory Day Festivity in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

The Sirajganj district administration arranged a colourful procession, discussion, prize giving ceremony and a cultural function in the town to mark Victory Day on December 16.

In the morning, a colourful procession inaugurated by deputy commissioner Ashraf Ali wound its way around the town. Hundreds of people from all walks of life took part in the procession.

In the evening, a discussion was presided over by ADM Dr. A K M Rafiq Ahmed was held at Bhasani Auditorium in the town. Deputy commissioner Ashraf Ali was the chief guest, while police super Alamgir Rahman was special guest.



Actors stage a play at the cultural function.

Among others, Sirajganj Zilla Muktijoddha Sangsad commander and Freedom Fighter Khalequzzaman Khaled, KM Akhter Hossain, Johurul Islam and TM Sohel spoke on the occasion.

The speakers asserted that many Freedom Fighters who played a vital role during the Liberation War are now reduced to penury. They also pointed out that the government should take urgent steps to ameliorate their lot. They called upon the people to vote for pro-Liberation forces in memory of the Freedom Fighters.

Later, prizes were distributed to the child artistes of Zila Shilpakala Academy. The artistes also rendered songs and presented plays and dances in the course of a cultural function.

Latest Shah Rukh film gives Bollywood hope



Shah Rukh Khan and newcomer Anoushka Sharma in "Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi."

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Shah Rukh Khan has once again lived up to his tag of being the most bankable Bollywood star. You can bank on him at, to quote novelist Charles Dickens, the best and the worst of times.

If the initial response to the latest Shah Rukh-starrer film "Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi" is any indication, the maker of the film Yash Raj Films, theatre and multiplex owners have a reason to smile after the glum face they had when audience in cinema halls in Mumbai and

other parts of the country thinned down in the wake of last month's terror attacks in India's financial capital.

"Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi", a romantic story also featuring newcomer Anoushka Sharma, is the first film featuring Shah Rukh that hit the theatres this year. It offers Shah Rukh fans a view to distinct shades of the actor -- one in a de-glamorised role of a middle class man Surinder Sahni in over-size trouser, thick moustache and thick-framed spectacles, and another as a quintessentially Bollywood Raj wearing skin-hugging tee shirts, jeans and jell-splashed hairs.

Shah Rukh had given Bollywood two box-office hits in 2007 with "Om Shanti Om" and "Chak de India" and will "Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi" follow suit this year?

The all-India opening of the film is likely to be 60-70 per cent, as against a hundred percent usually associated with a Yash Raj banner movie", said Kumar Mohan, Editor of trade magazine "Complete Cinema."

Multiplex owners in Delhi and Mumbai say those who have seen "Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi" have liked it, particularly a couple of its songs and they hope audience turnout would be more in the coming weeks.

The three-hour movie marks the return of Aditya Chopra as a director after a break of eight years and the second movie he made with Shah Rukh after the 1995 super hit "Dilwale Dulhaniya Le Jayenge."

Photography exhibition in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A 10-day photography exhibition was inaugurated at Baishakhi Mancha of Poura Park in the district town on December 16. Alok Chitra Shilpi Sangsad (Ashis), a group of amateur and professional photographers, organised the 15th exhibition.

Deputy commissioner of Mymensingh, Ziaur Rahman Khan inaugurated the event with Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Sadar Mohammad Zakir Hossain, also convener of the Exhibition Implementation Committee in the chair.

An aggregate of 165 photographs, including 35 rare photographs on the Liberation War were on display at the exhibition. Thirty two photographers, including internationally reputed photographer Enam-ul-Haque, took part in the exhibition.

Marking Victory Day, a photography competition titled 'Live and livelihood' was also organised by Ashis recently. Jahangir Kabir Jewel, photographer of Prothom Alo in Mymensingh won the first prize while Shakila Siddiqua Rima secured second position and Pritish Sarker Manik bagged the third position.



Visitors at the photography exhibition.

PHOTO: STAR

Searching for talent in South Asia



TV Southasia, a collaborative venture between AAJ TV (Business Recorder Group) of Pakistan, Broadcast Worldwide of India, Image Channels of Nepal, Maharaja Group (MTV Private Ltd) of Sri Lanka and RTV PVT Ltd from Bangladesh, has been on air since April 19, 2008.

The channel has launched the first regional singing contest, "Southasian Superstar", with 10 participants and five judges from five countries (two participants and one judge per country): Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Lanka, Pakistan, says a press release.

From Bangladesh, the two contestants

were Shuvo and Niloy, the former champion and runner-up of D Rock Star.

The curtain raiser of the contest, anchored by Mishu Rahman from Bangladesh, and Shayne from India, is being televised by RTV from December 19, 2008 at 11:00 pm. The episodes are scheduled to go on air every Friday at 11:00 pm.

TV Southasia is the only joint venture between private entities in the media space in Southasia with the largest representation from all the five countries and is currently being viewed in India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Dainik Tolpar on Channel-i tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial Dainik Tolpar will be aired tonight at 9:35 pm on Channel-i. Written by Anisul Haque, the serial has been directed by Ashrafi Mithu.

The story is built upon the bittersweet relationship between the employees of the newspaper "Dainik Tolpar". Masud Hassan is the editor and Shamsuzzaman Babu is the correspondent of the entertainment page. The plot revolves around the lives of the people at the newspaper office and the



A scene from the TV serial.

celebrities they interact with everyday. The cast includes Shamsul Alam Bakul, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Shoeb, Emon, Prova, Aupi Karim, Mahmuduzzaman Babu and Nova.