

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Group Exhibition of Masks
 Title: Mukh O Mukhosh-2
 Venue: Galleri Kaya
 Date: January 16-25
 Time: 11am-8pm



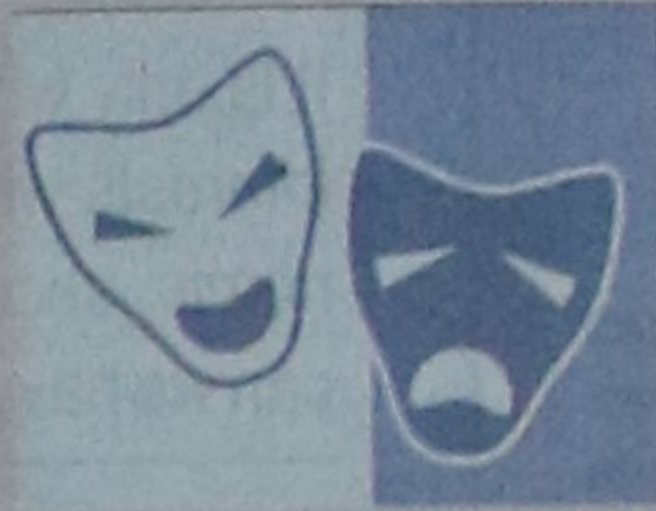
Group Drawing Exhibition

Title: Rhythmic Lines
 Venue: Asiatic Gallery of Fine Arts, Nimtoli, Ramna
 Date: January 3-15
 Time: 12pm-8pm



Kochi Memorial Award

31st anniversary of Padatik Natya Sangsad
 Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
 Date: January 16
 Time: 5pm



Art Exhibition

Artist: Steven Renald and Samina Nafies
 Venue: Creative Destination, Shanto-Marham University
 Date: January 14-20
 Time: 12pm-8pm



Mahadev Saha Words of passion

TAKIR HOSSAIN

"I think, a poet is different from others in his way of thinking, yearning and functioning in everyday life. A poet tends to contemplate his surroundings and the people next to him/her. Joys, woes, and others experiences affect him/her in a distinct and unparalleled way. A poet is quick to reach a human heart. (S)he is also a magician of language," says Mahadev Saha, one of the leading romantic poets in contemporary Bengali literature. He is also a poet of mystery and muted ambience. Since he took to poetry, he has carefully removed himself from any disquiet and unsteadiness.

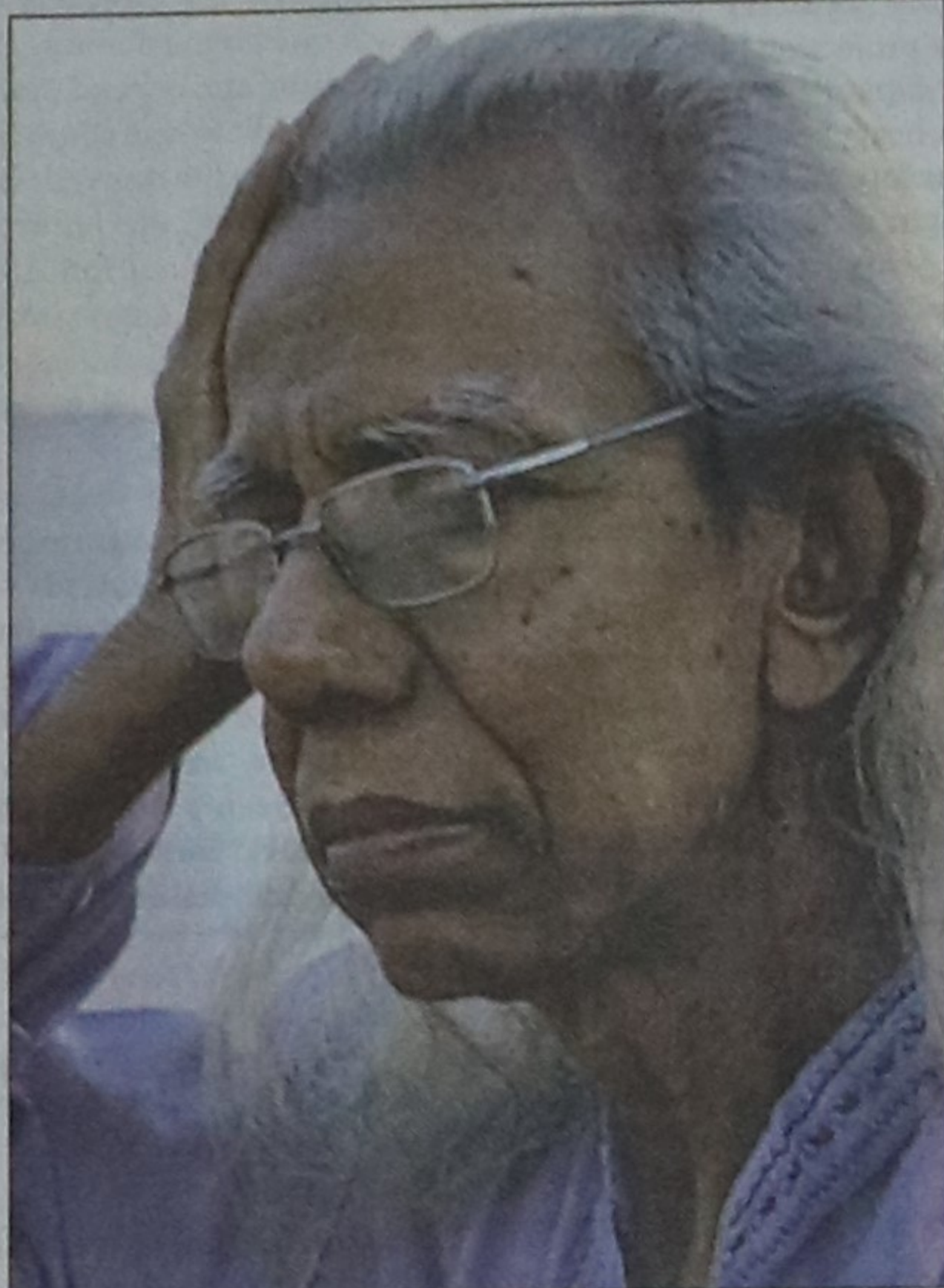
His love for beauty and nature comes through in a very animated and intimate manner in his canvas of poetry. "I use the imagery of the moon, sun, sky, lush greenery, clouds and other natural wonders in my poetry. I was born in a remote area of Sirajganj. In my early years I enjoyed rural beauty and the silent environment of pastoral areas. Raindrops on a tin roof, moonlit nights, the autumn skies, winter mornings and fishing at night -- these are vibrant episodes in my life. When I reminiscence on my childhood, I experience immense joy."

Mahadev Saha was born on August 5, 1944 in Dhanghara, Sirajganj. The only child of parents Godadhora Saha and Birajmohini, Mahadev completed his primary and high school education in his village. For higher education he went to Dhaka College, Bogra College and Rajshahi University. "In my student days, I enjoyed reading the great literary masters like Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam and Jibanananda Das," says the poet.

Mahadev is one of the foremost poets of the late '60s, an era marked with accomplishments and revolutionary ideas. He claims to be introverted and has no interest in personal relationships. Partly because right from his adolescent days, the poet has contemplated the eternal questions: Why are we born? Where will we go after death? "I observed the death of my relatives. Death can be peaceful when a life ends naturally."

"I started writing right from my school days. Nature, serenity and rivers encouraged me to delve into the art of poetry. It is a cathartic experience for me to write poems. Through this medium I experience a sense of fulfillment," says Mahadev.

The main elements in Saha's poetry are solitude, love, yearning, the Liberation War, scenic beauty, poverty, secularism and equal rights. The struggles and sorrows of the deprived spur him to write. The poet is deeply moved by the ravages of



Mahadev Saha

poverty. His style is unquestionably unique and evocative. His words and verses articulate the torments of a lonesome soul and a mourning heart.

Mahadev's first book "Ei Griha Ei Sannyas" was published in 1972. His second book "Chai Bish, Amorata" was published in 1975. He has published 55 books of poetry, three books for children, four books of essays, three compilations of poems and one volume of selected poems.

The 'magician of words' has won many prestigious awards like Ekushey Padak, Bangla Academy Award, Zebunnesa-Mahabubillah Award, Alaol, Shahitya Award and Khalekddar Chowdhury Smriti Padak.

Six month-long theatre course for children

With the collaboration of Bangladesh Children Theatre Federation, Angan Little Theatre School is going to organise a six-month long certificate course on acting for six to sixteen year olds, starting from February 6, says a press release. The course will be coordinated by Fairytale. Classes will be held twice a week, on Fridays and Saturdays.

Noted theatre and TV personalities including Abul Hayat, Amirul Haque Chowdhury, Lucky Inam, Dolly Zahur, Ashish Khandokar and Tauqir Ahmed will conduct the classes. Certificates would be given to students upon successful completion of the course.

Applications for the course are available at Theatre Corner, Natok Swarani; Ideas Crafts, Aziz Super Market; Chowdhury and Traders, Dhanmondi and Angan Little Theatre's office in Dhanmondi.

The last date for collecting applications is February 4.

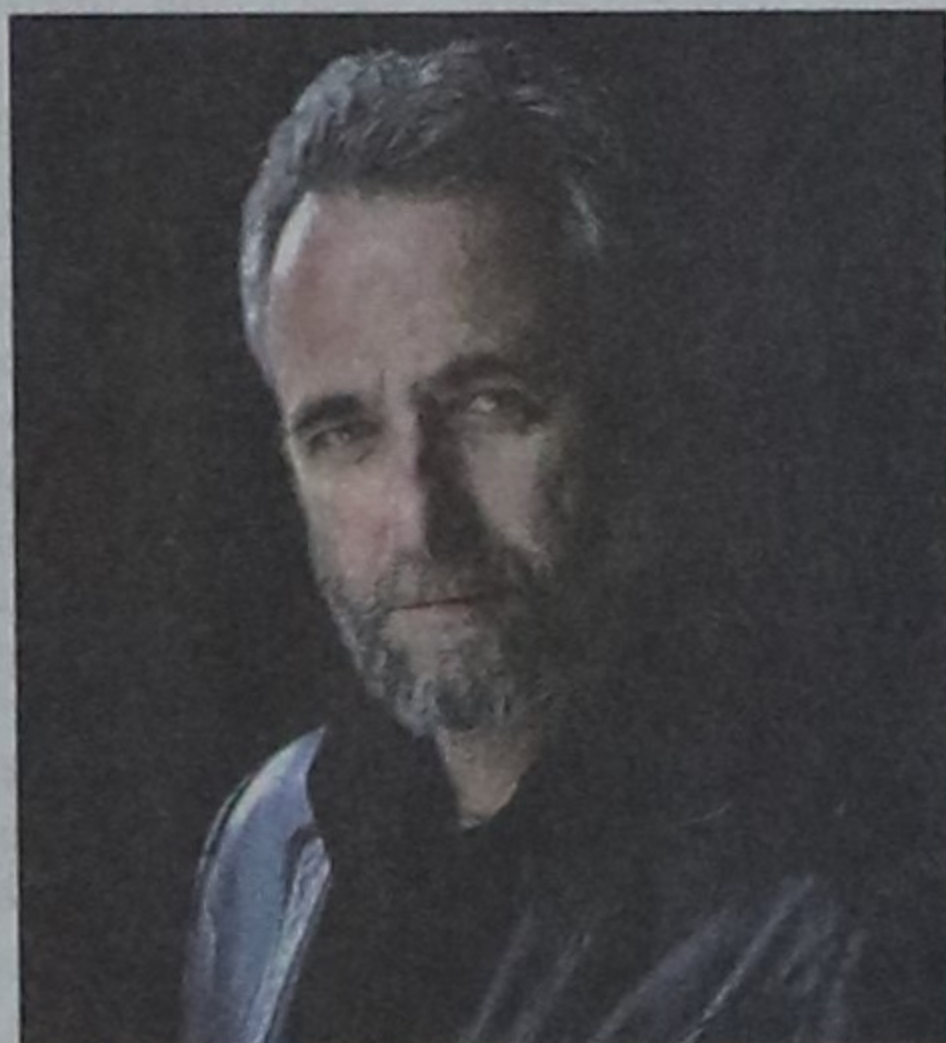
Angan Little Theatre has further plans to hold more educational and entertaining programmes for children.



PHOTO: STAR

As homage to theatre icon Selim Al Deen on his first death anniversary, a photography exhibition started yesterday at Bogra Zilla Parishad Auditorium. The exhibition features a number of photographs of Al Deen taken during his short stay in Bogra. Veteran theatre artiste Golam Kader inaugurated the exhibition.

TALK, DON'T SHOOT Ari Folman's antiwar Film



"Waltz With Bashir" uses the unlikely form of animation to piece together a nuanced account of filmmaker Ari Folman's (R) experiences in the 1982 Lebanon War.

Ari Folman's animated documentary, "Waltz With Bashir" is making headlines. The film, a Golden Globe winner, was named last Tuesday to a short list of nine movies up for Oscar nominations in the foreign-language contest. Folman's "antiwar movie" is doubly resonant if one considers the ongoing Israeli offensive in Gaza. In a recent interview the sensitive filmmaker, however, indicated that he doesn't believe film can change the world.

The headlines coming out of Gaza have lent added relevance to your new film, "Waltz With Bashir," which uses the unlikely form of animation to piece together a nuanced account of your experiences in the 1982 Lebanon War.

Folman: It will always be up-to-date because something will always happen again.

You mean the prospect for peace seems so remote? That's sad.

Folman: But it's true.

You were a 19-year-old soldier at the time of the massacre of Palestinians by Lebanese Christian Phalangists in two refugee camps in West Beirut. Where were you during that 72-hour rampage?

Folman: We were nearby, a half a mile away, and we realised what happened just after it ended, while women were running hysterically out of the camps.

The film can be described as the Israeli "Slaughterhouse-Five."

Folman: Yes, more than anything else, I see it as an antiwar movie.

One tends to think of Israel as a country where survivalist imperatives do not allow for much antiwar sentiment.

Folman: Israelis are divided, definitely, but I think you hear too much of the louder voices that always justify any kind of act of aggression. But there is a very big crowd of people who are fed up with war. I can't understand the word "war" anyhow.

What can't you understand?

Folman: I can't understand people killing each other for a piece of land. Can you understand that?

Israel's founding generation didn't seem to harbour ambivalence about war.

Folman: They were survival wars. They were about the existence of the country, and they were influenced tremendously by the Holocaust. But the Lebanon War had nothing to do with

survival.

It was a military exception?

Folman: It was not an exception. It was a turning point in the relationship between the Israeli leadership and the people, who realised for the first time that war can be declared just for political reasons.

Ariel Sharon would disagree.

Folman: What went through Sharon's head in 1982? Only he knows.

You were one of the original writers on "In Treatment," the Israeli show set in a psychiatrist's office that was adapted by HBO.

Folman: You know the show? There is an Israeli pilot traumatised by his experiences dropping a bomb that killed 14 kids. In the American version, it was adapted to Iraq.

Do you find that talk is more effective in matters of war and diplomacy?

Folman: Yes. I think you should always ask yourself: has everything been done to prevent the conflict? Talk, don't shoot. Talk.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

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